



No 3368

# THE INDEPENDENT

WEDNESDAY 6 AUGUST 1997

WEATHER: Dry and sunny

(IR 45p) 40p

NEWS PAGE 9  
**BLAST-OFF  
TO SAVE  
MIR**



IN THE TABLOID

**BRIDGET JONES:  
RUDE THOUGHTS  
ABOUT ROBIN**

INSIDE THE TABLOID

**City+** WITH  
37  
PAGES  
OF OFFICE, LEGAL AND  
BANKING APPOINTMENTS

TABLOID PAGE 9

**WIN A MEZZO  
DINNER PARTY  
IN YOUR HOME**



TELEPHONE  
ENTRY ONLY

## Top pay plan for super teachers

Colin Brown and Lucy Ward

A radical restructuring of teachers' pay to create a new class of highly-skilled "superteachers" and raise standards in schools will be outlined by the Government today.

The new pay framework will reward expert staff who wish to stay in the classroom but who at present are offered no financial incentive to do so.

But David Blunkett, Secretary of State for Education, will make it clear in evidence to the School Teachers' Review Body, which makes recommendations on pay in the New Year, that he does not want the extra £835m allocated for schools in England in the Budget to be swallowed up in high pay awards.

He will warn the pay body that a high award would not allow the Government to fulfil its commitments to reduce class sizes and invest in more books and equipment to raise standards.

In addition to the "superteacher" category, there will be moves to gear the pay award to close the gap between primary school teachers, who are regarded as relatively poorly paid, and secondary school teachers. The review body will be asked to raise primary school teachers' salaries to improve recruitment.

The body will also be asked to consider how work carried out by teachers outside school hours, such as supervising after-school homework clubs, can be reflected in salaries.

This year's pay settlement will spill over into next year's award because the second part of this year's pay award comes into effect in December, with a 7.5% increase next year.

The Chancellor, Gordon Brown, is expected to reinforce the message about affordability in a letter to all public sector pay review bodies in September. Pay rises will have to be paid for out of productivity, he will say.

Mr Blunkett will be keen to balance the tough line on pay restraint with a positive approach to develop ways of structuring pay to improve standards.

The proposed "advanced skills teacher" grade, the most radical change to the current pay structure, will offer teachers committed to remaining in the classroom the chance to gain higher salaries in recognition of their expertise.

Ministers are concerned that, at present, many of the best teachers are

forced to seek non-teaching responsibilities which reduce their time in the classroom in order to gain salary increments.

The current pay ceiling for a classroom teacher with no additional responsibilities is £21,318, irrespective of age and experience. Newly qualified staff just starting out in the profession earn just over £14,000.

Teachers in primary schools have less opportunity than their secondary school counterparts to boost their salaries at present because there are fewer extra responsibilities available.

Mr Blunkett will emphasise that the Government wants the best teachers to keep their jobs. The Government is seeking to link them to professorships in universities and to undertake research.

The Government believes that some of the extra £835m will have to be made available for pay, but it is keen to promote its pledges to reduce class sizes, spend more on books and equipment, and give particular attention to where it is most needed.

Sources have indicated that no more than £300m of the Budget windfall should go on meeting the pay award. The Local Government Association suggested last month that £400m would be needed to fund an inflation linked award.

Teaching unions have consistently backed the idea of a new "master teacher" grade. However, the National Union of Teachers, the country's largest teaching union, last night claimed the Government was "going about things back to front" by asking the pay review body to advise on salaries for such staff without first defining what their responsibilities would be.

The NUT general secretary, Doug McAvoy, said: "The Government is asking for a decision on how these teachers should be paid before deciding what the job entails. This is not a matter for the review body."

More detail was needed on what such teachers would do and how they would be selected. The union wants to see open competition within schools for master teacher posts, rather than appointment by heads.

Teaching unions insist pay remains a key issue in raising the status of the profession. Most claimed higher pay would do more to raise morale than the knighthoods for successful heads being proposed by Tony Blair.

Government sources let it be known

**'It must be possible to keep best teachers in the classroom without forcing them into management to earn a decent living'**

Leading article, page 13



Affairs of state: Prince Charles shaking hands with Dr George Carey during a visit to Canterbury Cathedral

## Carey warns of crisis if Charles marries Camilla

Kim Sengupta

The Archbishop of Canterbury yesterday broke his silence on whether the Prince of Wales should marry Camilla Parker Bowles by declaring that such a step would plunge the Church of England into crisis.

Dr George Carey's comments made it clear that while there was no objection to the divorced Prince succeeding to the throne, the situation would be significantly different if he remarried.

The Archbishop's sudden intervention was greeted with surprise by constitutional observers, who warned of a damaging conflict between the State and the Church if he tried to block a second marriage by Prince Charles.

Government sources let it be known

recently that the Prime Minister would be sympathetic to any future marriage.

Peter Mandelson, the Minister Without Portfolio, is believed to have had a number of meetings with the Prince, as well as having dinner with Mrs Parker Bowles. And Dr Tony Wright, the PPS to the Lord Chancellor, Lord Irvine, said that he did not believe the "sky would fall in" if Prince Charles wanted to remarry.

The Archbishop was speaking at a press conference while attending the 150th anniversary of the Australian Anglican Church in Sydney. He was asked

"Do you think Camilla Parker Bowles would make a good queen?" He responded that all that the Prince has to be the next heir to the throne. So the

very fact he is divorced is not an issue.

He added: "Now it is true that remarriage would create a crisis for the church - this is well known".

Dr Carey pointed out that the Prince had given no indication that he wanted to remarry following his divorce.

Lambeth Palace tried to play down his remarks on the matter. A spokeswoman said Dr Carey was simply reiterating the well-known opposition of the Church to divorcees remarrying while their original partner is still alive.

The chances of the Church accepting the Prince remarrying is thought to have been increased by the fact Dr Carey had blessed the remarriages of both his divorced children. But the Lambeth Palace spokeswoman said: "He has also refused to bless many others. This depends entirely on individual circumstances."

## 200 feared dead in Jumbo disaster

John Carlin  
in Washington  
and Kate Watson Smyth,  
Kim Sengupta  
London

also sent a team to investigate the accident, said: "Guam is a very small island and as the plane had already been cleared to land, we know that the navigation system was working all right. They came within sight of the airport and then the plane impacted with the ground."

"It is raining there and if there are heavy storms it is possible that the plane could have been struck by lightning or it could be that there was some turbulence."

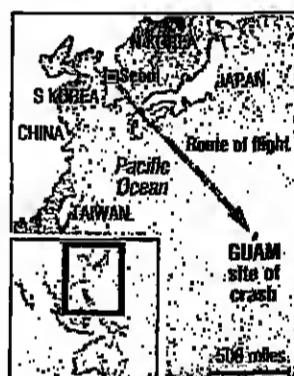
Flight 801 from Seoul, the capital of South Korea, to the tiny United States colony came down at 2.35am local time (17.35 BST) in a hilly, rugged area, according to officials at Agana airport. Emergency services struggled to get to the scene in the night, hampered by the terrain and bad weather.

Witnesses quoted on US television reported hearing an explosion, and then seeing a fireball in the sky. Aviation experts in Washington were speculating yesterday that the aircraft could have suffered engine problems that the pilot might have lost his bearings on a dark and rainy night.

"It rained off and on all day, but it's too early to say if weather was a factor," an airport spokesman said, who added that there was widespread fire on the ground.

Boeing last night sent a team of specialists to the site of the crash. The aircraft 747-300 was delivered to Korean Air in December 1984.

Guam has also been developed as a tourist resort, and is particularly popular with Japanese visitors. As a Pacific destination it is second only to Hawaii.



Largest of the Marianas, east of the Philippines, Guam is one of the most important strategic bases abroad for the US military with more than one-third of its usable land used by the air force and navy. The US has 2,500 military personnel at Anderson air force base, plus naval facilities on the island, which is used as a staging base and for logistics support for US and Allied operations in the Pacific Basin.

Guam has also been developed as a tourist resort, and is particularly popular with Japanese visitors. As a Pacific destination it is second only to Hawaii.

**The PEP  
that likes  
to say**

**NO salesmen.  
NO commission.  
NO jargon.  
NO hassle.**

**Virgin direct**  
personal financial service

**0345 95 95 95**

Open seven days a week from 8am to 10pm

Growth PEP minimum investment £50 a month or £1,000 lump sum.  
Income PEP £1,000 lump sum.

Guaranteed Personal Investment Plan is a registered trademark of Virgin Investments Ltd. The Virgin brand and logo are trademarks of Virgin Group Ltd. The Virgin brand and logo are trademarks of Virgin Group Ltd.

© 1997 Virgin Investments Ltd. All rights reserved. Virgin Investments Ltd is authorised and regulated by the Financial Services Authority.

Guaranteed Personal Investment Plan is a registered trademark of Virgin Investments Ltd. The Virgin brand and logo are trademarks of Virgin Group Ltd.

© 1997 Virgin Investments Ltd. All rights reserved. Virgin Investments Ltd is authorised and regulated by the Financial Services Authority.



Barrie Clement  
Labour Editor

Apparently it gets worse at night when drink has been taken. The male employees at Connex South Central train company seem to bear the brunt. There are comments about their sexuality and claims that they resemble technicolour gendarmes or brightly coloured birds - budgerigars more often than not.

The most popular suggestion, however, is that their uniforms are of a kind usually found in the properties department of the D'Oyly Carte opera company in the section marked "Pirates of Penzance".

The employees of Connex South Central are seriously bored with shouts of "which is Long John Silver?" and "Where's your parrot?"

The vestments of the long-suffering station staff are, shall we say, an acquired taste. The more toffee-nosed passengers commuting into London from Sussex might even venture that they were a touch vulgar.

Conservative black trousers and blazers in a relatively quiet blue are enlivened with a lighter blue hat with yellow braid plus a bright yellow waistcoat.

The company seems to be rather precious about the uniform and woe betide any employee who sheds a garment without authorisation.

The rail workers' union, RMT, reports that a number of employees have been disciplined for failing to wear a hat and at least one has been issued with a "final warning".

Employees complain that in

the greenhouse conditions of

some stations such as Brighton,

which are covered in glass, re-

moval of the head gear is the

only means to avoid expiring in

the manner beloved of guards-

men. Jimmy Knapp, general

secretary of the union, concedes

that changes in uniform

were always controversial with

staff, but he argued that insuf-

cient consultation took place

over the Connex get-up.

A spokesman said the Gallic-look-

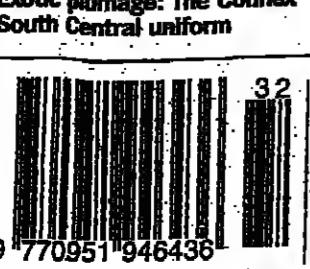
ing headgear could be removed

"but staff have to receive au-

thorisation and conditions have

to be Equatorial".

No-holiday bonus, page 6



32  
QUICKLY

Simon sells £2m BP shares  
The trade minister, Lord Simon, announced that he was selling his 2.2m shares in BP, in a climbdown to end attacks on the Government over his alleged conflict of interests.

CONTENTS

THE BROADSHEET  
Business & City ..... 16-20  
Foreign News ..... 8-10  
Sport ..... 21-24  
Leading articles, letters ..... 13  
Fashion ..... 12

THE TABLOID  
Arts reviews ..... 15  
Features ..... 6-9  
Listings ..... 16-17  
Travel ..... 10  
Radio & TV ..... 19-20  
Weather ..... 18

Read The  
Independent on the  
World Wide Web  
<http://www.independent.co.uk>

## news

## significant shorts

## Cook says his wife behaved nobly over affair revelations

Foreign Secretary Robin Cook last night said he had "behaved badly" towards his wife - whom he is leaving after revelations of an affair - and that she had behaved "nobly".

In a statement he apologised for the "public hounding" their marriage split had brought her, and asked that she now be left in privacy. His statement was issued in response to one his wife, Margaret, put out on Monday, in which she said: "Whatever my husband's private life may have been, he has always been a very good Member of Parliament and is a very good Foreign Secretary."

## Second Doncaster official suspended

A senior official has been suspended from a council at the centre of a police fraud investigation, it was confirmed yesterday.

Assistant planning director Graham Raynor, 46, is the second senior officer to be suspended by Labour-controlled Doncaster Council. Chief executive Doug Hale was suspended in April and has now taken early retirement. The suspension of Mr Raynor, 46, follows allegations that he secretly supported a landowner's planning application to build houses on protected green-belt land.

## Lib Dems warn: Don't get sick today

The Liberal Democrats declared today "National Don't Get Sick" day to draw attention to the shortage of doctors on wards.

A former junior doctor, Liberal Democrat MP Dr Evan Harris, said today that in hospitals all over Britain junior doctors would be taking to the wards, and they would be unsupervised. Hospital doctors call this "Don't Get Sick" day because they hope pressures on freshers are not too great, said Dr Harris, a junior doctor in Liverpool and Oxford before he became a registrar. Colin Brown

## Vic and Bob's 'Omnibus' treatment



Comedians Vic Reeves and Bob Mortimer will be analysed in a forthcoming *Omnibus*, BBC1's arts documentary series.

The Shooting Stars pair will be dissected by contemporaries Jonathan Ross, Mark Lamarr, Ulrika Joosoo, Jim Davidson, Terry Jones and Sting.

"Too soon for a Vic and Bob documentary? I would say if anything it is late," BBC director of television Alan Yentob said yesterday.

## Waterways Board fined £18,000

The Government's British Waterways Board was fined £18,000 yesterday for allowing a farm to take too much irrigation water from a canal. The prosecution was brought by another arm of Government, the Environment Agency.

Derby magistrates heard that, despite a warning letter, the waterways board continued to allow Trent Valley Growers Ltd to take more water than its licence allowed from the Trent and Mersey Canal at Barrow-on-Trent last summer. The firm was fined £3,600.

Nicholas Schoon

## Derek Hammond-Stroud, OBE

Contrary to the impression given in the article "Make Mine a G&S" in the Weekend section on Saturday, the baritone Derek Hammond-Stroud, OBE, is alive and well, although retired from the stage. Our apologies to him (and his many friends and pupils) for any distress caused.

## THE INDEPENDENT ABROAD

Austria ... Sch40 NLands ... £6.00  
Belgium ... Bf40 Isp ... £4.500  
Carcas ... Ps300 Moldova ... £9.25  
Cypria ... £11.20 Malta ... 43 cents  
Denmark ... Dkr13 Norway ... Kr620  
Irel Rep ... £4.50 Portugal ... £2.325  
France ... Fr14 Spain ... Ps300  
Germany ... DM4.5 Sweden ... Kr621  
Greece ... Dr50 Switzerland ... SFr4.00  
Luxembourg ... Lf60 USA ... \$3.00

OVERSEAS SUBSCRIPTIONS  
Air mail, 13 weeks: Europe £11.00; Zone 1: Middle East, Africa, Asia and India £18.40; Zone 2: Far East and Australasia £20.50. To order, please send cheques payable to *Johnsens International Media Services*, Ltd, 43 Millbank, London SW1P 4RR or telephone 0171-538 8288. Credit cards welcome.

BACK ISSUES  
Back copies of the *Independent* are available from *Historic Newspapers*, telephone 01988 840370.



Viscount Cobham and Lisa Clayton: Wedding plans only known to immediate circle

## Lord and yachtswoman tie the marriage knot

Viscount Cobham, the landowner whose ex-wife, Penelope, left him for the former Cabinet minister David Mellor, has married Lisa Clayton, the round-the-world yachtswoman, it emerged yesterday.

The couple, whose romance was known only to their immediate circle, are now taking their honeymoon in Scotland. The quiet ceremony last Friday was the first at the reclusive aristocrat's family seat, Hagley Hall, near Birmingham, since it was granted a licence to hold weddings.

"Only handful of guests were present, including the bride's parents, Dan and Gwen, of Bromsgrove, Worcestershire. They were unavailable for comment yesterday.

It is believed the romance blossomed after Miss Clayton's catering firm, Westcote Ventures, won a contract to provide corporate hospitality at the stately home several months ago.

A spokesman for Hagley Hall said Viscount Cobham, 54, and Miss Clayton, 38, will live there on a permanent basis.

Peter Harding, Miss Clayton's former business partner, who helped organise her round-the-world voyage, said he had no idea the couple were getting married.

"I had heard rumours about a relationship between the two of them but Lisa is a very private person and there are some things you don't ask about. Although I had no idea she was getting married until after the ceremony, I have to say it was no great surprise."

Viscount Cobham, who lists cricket and shooting as his principle interests in *Who's Who*, was granted

a divorce two years ago on the grounds of his 43-year-old wife's adultery.

She left him nearly three years ago for Mr Mellor, chairman of the Government's new Football Task Force. They now live together at his luxury home near Tower Bridge in London.

At the time of the divorce, Viscount Cobham was said to be deeply upset and claimed he had no knowledge of his wife's affair until Mr Mellor made a statement. The Conservative MP had already split up with his own wife after an affair with the actress Antonia de Sanche.

Viscount Cobham had been married for 20 years but had no children.

Miss Clayton entered the record books after becoming the first woman to sail non-stop around the world in her yacht *The Spirit of Birmingham* in 1995.

During the 31,000-mile voyage, which took 286 days, she battled with mountainous waves, gale-force winds and twice capsized her boat. On the second occasion, she sent a message back to Birmingham asking the people of the city to pray for her.

But she survived and returned to face allegations of cheating. She was asked to provide the World Sailing Record Speed Council with all her written logs for ratification. No action was taken and the record stood.

Since then she has been awarded a Doctorate of Science from Birmingham University, appeared on *This Is Your Life* and two weeks ago was given the Freedom of the City of Birmingham.

Kate Watson-Smyth

## Lumley and Palin go round the world for Auntie



also commemorate Remembrance Sunday with an affectionate portrait of the Chelsea Pensioners.

Launching the line-up at Television Centre yesterday, the BBC's director of television, Alan Yentob, steadfastly denied that *The Prince of Hearts* (starring Robson Green and Tara Fitzgerald) was about Prince Edward, who studied at Jesus College, Cambridge.

Elsewhere in the BBC1 autumn schedule the channel is likely to provoke some controversy, with a daring drama about the amorous encounters of a young prince at Cambridge, and a series of documentaries exploring the history of modern Irish republicanism.

But, in case defenders of the constitutional status quo are provoked into withholding their licence fee, the corporation will

"The BBC will be careful to en-

sure it is not a propaganda coup for the Provisors," he stated weakly, pointing out that four former Northern Ireland secretaries had agreed to be interviewed.

The producer of the programmes - to be presented by a seasoned chronicler of the conflict, Peter Taylor - also claims to have gained unprecedented access to leading republicans.

The BBC will also mark its 75th anniversary this autumn by screening a major history series about itself, *Auntie - The Story of the BBC*, made by an independent production company.

The series promises to offer insight into the battles between BBC management and the Thatcher government.

Rob Brown

## Neil Hamilton granted public sleaze hearing

Neil Hamilton, the former Tory MP at the centre of the cash-for-questions row, will get his "day in court". The Commons standards watchdog yesterday granted Mr Hamilton his request for a televised hearing in which he can put his case to them personally.

He will be called to give an oral statement and be questioned by the Standards and Privileges Committee at the Commons on 14 October, two weeks before the House returns from its summer break.

But Mr Hamilton will be required to take the rare step of swearing an oath before being cross-examined by the committee. Yesterday's decision by the committee, which had hoped to complete its inquiries quickly, means the saga will drag on into the autumn.

It is thought Mr Hamilton will be the second

MP to take the oath when giving evidence to a Commons select committee.

The first was the former Tory minister Andrew Mitchell when earlier this year he gave evidence to the old standards committee over his role in an early investigation into sleaze claims. Mr Mitchell lost his Gedling seat at the general election.

The committee's decision came after a two-and-a-half hour meeting in the Commons, for which MPs were recalled from their summer break.

It is considering the report of Parliamentary Standards Commissioner, Sir Gordon Downey, which was published last month.

Sir Gordon found "compelling" evidence that Mr Hamilton accepted cash payments from Hamdod Mohamad el-Fayed in return for lobbying services.

## briefing

## SCIENCE

## Universities accused of 'grotesque' experiments

Ten universities have been accused of "grotesque and pointless" scientific research, for carrying out psychology experiments on monkeys, chickens, rats and gerbils.

Top of the hit-list compiled by the pressure group Animal Aid is Bolton Institute of Higher Education, where an experiment was carried out in which six monkeys were taught a maze and then intentionally given brain damage by drilling a hole through their skulls. Other experiments separated gerbils from their life-long partners to investigate depression, and cut off rats' whiskers to see how sensory deprivation affected the brain.

Andrew Tyler, director of Animal Aid, said: "Psychology experiments on animals cause incalculable suffering, and the sterile conditions of the laboratory can never replicate the complex environmental factors surrounding human anxiety and depression."

The group is also seeking the permanent revocation of the animal experimentation licence awarded by the Home Office to Huntingdon Life Sciences, after a Channel 4 documentary shown in March allegedly showed beagles at the company being violently shaken and punched.

The universities were named in the Animal Aid Mad Science Awards, and the nominated universities will tomorrow receive a statuette featuring a beagle being stabbed by a scalpel. According to Home Office statistics, nearly 30,000 animals were used in psychological research in 1996, an increase of 7 per cent over 1995.

Charles Arthur

## TOURISM

## Royal palaces cost taxpayer £6.7m

Upkeep of the historic Royal palaces, including the Tower of London (below) and Hampton Court, cost the taxpayer £6.7m last year. The bill for new facilities - which means tourists can get a cup of tea at the Tower for the first time - helped to send the Government body running the palaces further into the red.

The annual report and accounts of the Historic Royal Palaces agency, presented to Parliament yesterday, shows a net operating deficit of £7.5m in 1997, compared with £4.5m in 1996.

However, the agency has raised the amount of income generated from £12m to £29m in the seven years it has been responsible for the palaces. It has also halved the proportion of its expenditure borne by the taxpayer from 35 per cent to 17 per cent.

Chief executive David Beeton said: "The palaces have always required subsidy from the taxpayer and [the] subsidy for last year is significantly lower than the subsidy that we inherited."

He added that there was "a possibility" the agency might not have to draw upon the taxpayer by the turn of the century. The tourist industry remains buoyant and fears of a recession prove unfounded.



## HEALTH

## Cuts jeopardise dental care

Budget cuts are seriously threatening the dental health of adults and children with special needs, says a report published today. Dentists called on the Government to restore funding for the "safety-net" service that is meant to help people unable to use a normal general dental practitioner.

A survey of hospital-based community dentists found more than half those questioned said their budget had been cut since 1994.

The Community Dental Service (CDS) provides dental care for people with special needs, like those with learning difficulties, the elderly, disabled and terminally ill. It provides school screening and dental health promotion and education.

The BDA survey showed one in five community dentists believed cuts were affecting the dental care of those with mental health problems. One in four thought the dental care of patients with learning difficulties was being compromised and more than a third said their trust had closed community health surgeries.

A total of 112 community health service dentists from 200 trusts throughout the UK took part in the BDA survey.

## GENETICS

## Exercise makes heart 'grow'

A gene has been discovered that appears to make the heart grow at a startling rate in response to strenuous physical exercise. The hearts of Army recruits with the gene variant showed 25 times more growth than those without it at the end of a tough 10 week training course, researchers said yesterday.

The scientists were so astonished by their findings that it took them a whole year to ensure they had not made a mistake. They still do not know if they have found a "Rambo" gene that creates super-fit soldiers - or something signifying just the opposite.

It may be that bigger hearts are produced in weaker individuals to help their bodies cope with the physical demands placed on them.

In people with high blood pressure, such heart growth can cause a condition called left ventricular hypertrophy which may double the chances of a heart attack or stroke. Researchers think identifying the gene - a special version of an already known gene called "ACE" - might lead to new methods of treatment.

## MOTORING

## German is best, say British drivers

The dream cars for Britain's drivers are German marques, such as Audi, BMW and Mercedes, a motorists' survey has shown. About 300 car-owners, representing a range of occupations, regions and ages, were questioned for the poll, revealing a surprising variety of car preferences.

The survey, published this month by Critical Research Ltd, claims that most men choose Mercedes as their favourite car, whilst women preferred Audi or BMWs.

The choice of colour, however, which is said to reflect the personality of the driver, was unaffected by gender. One in five drivers picked blue as their colour of choice, with red and green also scoring highly. Under-35s bucked the trend, with a clear preference for black.

Louise Hancock

## Read

## THE INDEPENDENT

online every day on AOL

Call 0800 376 5376

for FREE software - quote "Independent"



## NEWSPAPERS SUPPORT RECYCLING

Recycled paper made up 41.2% of the raw material for UK newspapers in the first half of 1996



news

# Clinton role revealed in IRA ceasefire

White House assurances to Sinn Fein paved way for latest peace initiative

Jojo Moyes

Sinn Fein received personal assurances from the US President Bill Clinton, before the IRA called a ceasefire, it emerged yesterday, as Gerry Adams prepared to meet the Northern Ireland Secretary, Mo Mowlam, for face-to-face talks.

Bruce Morrison, a former US congressman, who acted as a conduit between Sinn Fein and the US government said: "What they wanted from the States was clarity that Sinn Fein would once again achieve access to the States and access to the White House, and ability to do fundraising – things that they had achieved in the first ceasefire."

Mr Morrison told BBC Radio 4's *Today* programme that Sinn Fein had wanted assurances that there would be "some sort of attention to deportation cases that were of concern", and "perhaps overriding of all, continued engagement of the President towards a negotiation process."

When asked if President Clinton had been personally involved, he said: "These items



Stalemate: The sculptor Anton Brennan surveying his latest creation – a chess set with an orange and green chequered board and pieces depicting characters in the Ulster Troubles. It is on display at Belfast's Linenhall Library

Photograph: Pacemaker

number of "counter marches" that had been planned for Friday night. Mr MacNiallais asked that the Union flag should not be flown on Saturday from a planned position overlooking the Bogside. But he said he was "quietly confident" that events would pass peacefully on Saturday, when up to 12,000 Apprentice Boys are expected to march.

Apprentice Boys' groups are expected to meet later this week further to discuss the RUC's decision. But while governor Alistair Simpson said they were disappointed at the re-routing, he said he had received assurances that they would act within the law.

Apprentice Boys' spokesmen stressed that although they were not entirely happy with yesterday's conclusions, the main concern was that the weekend should pass off peacefully.

Mr Simpson paid tribute to the SDLP mayor of Derry, Martin Bradley, for attending a loyalist function the previous evening. He is believed to be the first nationalist mayor to attend a function at Apprentice Boys' headquarters.

which they raised with me were raised with the White House, with the National Security Council, and then ultimately through them with the President. And he signed off on a response which conveyed back

and gave necessary assurances in the areas I have mentioned."

He added that the discussions with republicans had been in terms of an unequivocal cessation of violence. Mr Morrison will meet with Ms Mowlam lat-

er this week, following her meeting with Mr Adams, the Sinn Fein leader, today – the first such meeting since before the previous ceasefire.

Meanwhile, there were indications that tensions over the

planned Apprentice Boys' parades in Northern Ireland were easing last night as both sides adopted an increasingly non-confrontational stance to the Royal Ulster Constabulary's decision to re-route the parades.

Police confirmed that they had served notice on the Apprentice Boys that they must re-route parades in two nationalist villages and in Belfast's Lower Ormeau Road.

A spokesman for the Bogside

Residents, Donncha MacNiallais, said yesterday evening that the Apprentice Boys' march through Londonderry on Saturday should be allowed to go ahead without interference.

The group has called a

## Dixons DEAL 97

SAVE UP TO 50%  
ON HI-FI SEPARATES

## MASSIVE SUMMER CLEAROUT EXTRA SAVINGS ON MANAGERS SPECIALS

OFFERS END MONDAY 11th AUGUST

PLUS  
INTEREST FREE OPTION  
WHEN YOU SPEND OVER £200\*

**aiwa** AV-X100  
DOLBY PRO-LOGIC HOME  
CINEMA KIT WITH 3 SPEAKERS

• 60 watts centre/20 watts rear speakers.  
• 8 Audio input terminals.  
Was £349.99.

In-store Price VOUCHER PRICE  
£249.99.

**£229.99**

**JVC** XL-V120BK  
CD PLAYER

• 32 Track programmable CD.  
• 1-bit D/A Converter.  
• 15 Track programme chart.  
• Auto/manual search.  
Was £129.99.

Dixons Deal

**£89.99**

**CD PLAYERS** SAVE UP TO 50%

**Technics**

SL-PG380A CD PLAYER  
• 20 Track  
programmable CD.  
• 1-bit D/A Converter.  
• Digital servo system.  
• Peak level search. Was £199.99.

**£99.99**

**HALF PRICE**

**Matsui** corona CD PLAYER  
• 20 Track  
programmable CD.  
• Remote control.  
• Multi-bit D/A Converter.  
• Mini size separate. Was £299.99.

**£49.99**

**SONY** CDP-X505 CD PLAYER  
• 24 Track programmable CD.  
• Remote control.  
• Optical digital output.  
• Hybrid pulse DAC.  
Was £299.99.

**£139.99**

**DENON** DCD-425 CD PLAYER  
• 20 Track programmable CD.  
• 1-bit D/A Converter.  
• Auto edit function.  
Was £199.99.

**£149.99**

SPEAKERS

£120

6 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION



news

# Crunch time looms for road tax dodgers

Randeep Ramesh  
Transport Correspondent

Motorists who dodge road tax face having their vehicles crushed or sold at auction in a government crackdown launched yesterday. Cars without vehicle excise duty discs will be clamped, then possibly towed away and crushed if not claimed within five weeks.

The Driver and Vehicle Li-

censing Agency, the government department that deals with vehicle registration, convinced ministers to act after the cost to the taxpayer topped £175m a year.

The Government has planned a two-week media campaign to warn drivers who have neglected to buy a disc that they face the new penalties. From 18 August, wheelclamping contractors will seek out

road tax cheats and clamp their vehicles. Car owners will have to pay £58 to get the clamp removed and will also have to show a valid tax disc.

Vehicles will be towed away and impounded if not claimed within 24 hours. After that, the release fee goes up and if vehicles stay unclaimed for five weeks, they will be destroyed or sold at auction.

"We are determined to clamp

down hard on this irresponsible group who evade paying their road tax," said Haydn Madoc, DVLA head of enforcement.

"Law-abiding motorists have nothing to fear, but road tax cheats should beware as they could end up carless and penniless," said Mr Madoc.

The enforcement activity will cover the whole of London to start with – but officials say that it will be extended to cover the

country by the end of next year.

A three-month pilot scheme last year in five London boroughs netted more than £2m in additional revenue. More than 500 vehicles were clamped, of which nearly 60 per cent were unclaimed and were either crushed or auctioned.

Baroness Hayman, the roads minister, said: "Being caught in this clampdown will certainly hit the pockets of road tax dodgers

much harder than the cost of a vehicle excise licence. Honest motorists are fed up with seeing the hard core who continually evade paying their road tax."

The minister made it clear that punitive action would not be taken against drivers who forgot to renew their tax disc.

"We are out to deter the evader with the threat of inconvenience, large fines and prosecution. We will not be

penalising those whose tax disc has fallen off the windscreen or are a few days late renewing their tax disc without an insurance certificate. Their selfishness affects all other motorists, because about £10 is added to average car insurance premium to cover the cost of uninsured drivers."

Motoring organisations welcomed the new initiative. The AA said the clamping campaign would also help to reduce the number of uninsured drivers on the roads. Andrew Howard, the AA's head of road safety, said: "There are about 2 million

uninsured drivers and most are also untaxed as they cannot buy the tax disc without an insurance certificate. Their selfishness affects all other motorists, because about £10 is added to average car insurance premium to cover the cost of uninsured drivers."

"Under this new scheme, those drivers who are clamped must buy road tax – and therefore insurance – before they get their vehicle back."

**Geordie brew is just the ticket for ale prize**

Michael Jackson

It is a beer which may cause trouble for some, but it has brought success for two brothers from Tyneside.

Workie Ticket is a Geordie expression for troublemaker and that is the name the Fawson brothers gave the bitter which yesterday won the Champion Beer of Britain prize at the Great British Beer Festival.

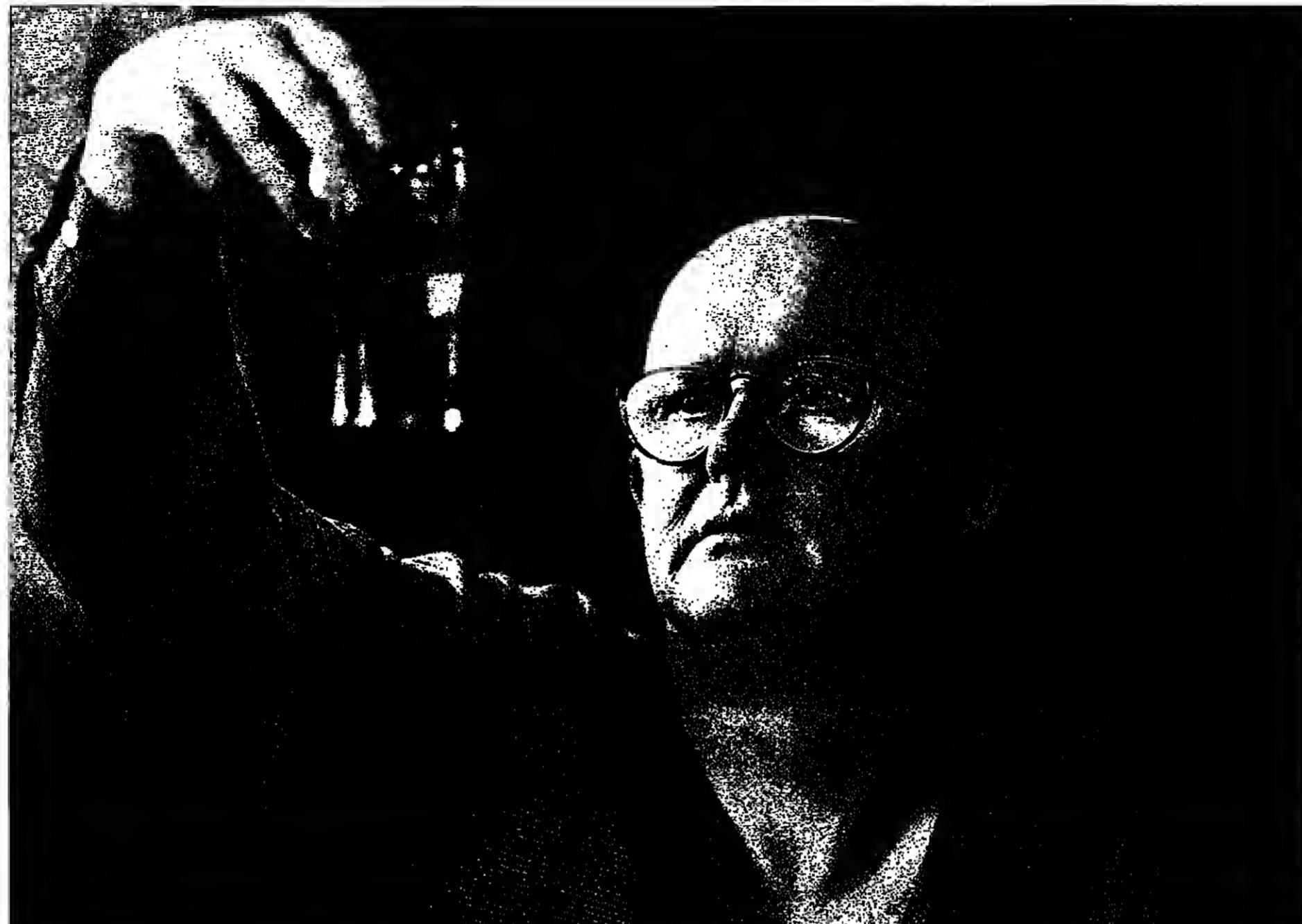
Matthew Fawson, a 23-year-old brewer with no formal training, runs the tiny Mordue brewery at Wallsend on Tyneside with his 34-year-old brother Gary.

They were originally home-brewers but decided to turn professional just over two years ago when Matthew could not find a job after art school. Gary, also a graduate, was working as a railway signaller.

They were further encouraged in their profession when they discovered that their house had in the 1800s been a brewery, run by a man called Joseph Mordue – whose name they borrowed for their business.

Gary sold his car to help set up the business. Matthew spent five days studying brewing with a consultant.

Their brewery has three times won best of show at the Newcastle Beer Festival in a region where brewing has recently regained some of its past reputation. Matthew proclaimed himself "flabbergasted" to win the national event at Olympia in London. "I'll probably make some really good beer when I'm 40," he said.



Smooth head: A judge sampling one of the hopeful entrants at the Great British Beer Festival at Olympia in London yesterday

Photograph: Philip Meech

Tasting Workie Ticket blindfold as a judge yesterday, I found it lively and grassy in its hop aroma; with a sweetish, malty, palate, and an appetising nutty, dryness in the finish. It

was so appealing that I inadvertently drank all of my half-pint tasting sample before writing down my critique and score. I had to ask for seconds for that purpose. Without a

blindfold, two years earlier, I had in my own writing commended the same beer for its maltness, nuttness and balance.

The other judges, a long-es-

tablished brewery owner, a brewing scientist, two drinks writers and an activist of the Campaign for Real Ale, all favoured Workie Ticket. There was also strong support for

winner of the second prize, Bateman's Dark Mild, from an old-established brewery near Skegness, Lincolnshire. Third was the Best Bitter of another newish brewery, Boson's found

ed in 1993 in Worcestershire.

There were also awards for a botted beer, Hop Back Summer Lightning, from Salisbury, Wiltshire, and a lager, Schiehallion, from Dollar, Scotland.

**Fees may be waived for medical students**

Colin Brown  
Chief Political Correspondent

Some medical students are expected to be given bursaries to help them pay £1,000-a-year tuition fees after intervention by Frank Dobson, the Secretary of State for Health, over the Dearing report.

The Health Secretary is to hold talks with the Treasury and the Education Secretary, David Blunkett, over the bursaries, after protests by doctors and dentists' leaders that the fees could deepen a shortage of medical graduates. He has privately told officials that some medical students should be given bursaries after the third year of their course. The details have to be agreed with the Treasury in time for an education fees white paper in the Autumn, but it is likely the bursaries will be limited to specialist areas where there are clear shortages.

Mr Blunkett announced on

24 July that students' maintenance grants would be converted into loans repayable when the students began earning. That would leave most students with a debt of over £10,000 after a three-year course. There would also be tuition fees of £1,000 a year for those whose parents earn £35,000. Medical students who have courses lasting five or six years would face debts ranging up to an estimated £20,000.

In spite of criticism, Mr Blunkett managed to win widespread support for the controversial plan from universities.

But the Government has so far failed to respond to a key recommendation in the Dearing report it should pick up the bill for students with courses lasting more than three years, including medical and teaching students.

Mr Dobson has told Cabinet colleagues the NHS is the biggest employer of graduates,

but it is not a high payer, and could face increasing difficulties recruiting unless a compromise is agreed over the tuition fees for medical students.

The British Dental Association has written to all MPs, urging them to support bursaries for dental students and is due to meet Baroness Blackstone, the education minister in the Lords. The BMA is also campaigning and yesterday the Liberal Democrats backed the demand for bursaries.

Figures showing a "crisis" in medical staffing were published by Simon Hughes, the Liberal Democrat spokesman on health, and Evan Harris, a Liberal Democrat MP and former hospital doctor who is still paying off his student loan.

Mr Hughes said there was a need for new medical school places, providing an extra 150 student places a year. Surveys showed the numbers of doctors were not matching the increased work-

load, and the ratio of juniors to consultants had fallen. "It would be the worst possible move for the Dearing report to be implemented in a way that makes medical students fear they will be worse off. The Dearing report is wrong. A contribution to tuition fees would be a disincentive," he said. Hospitals were hiring doctors from the Commonwealth to meet the Common short-ages.

Less than half of the senior house officers in East Anglia this year were British. Mr Patten, holidaying in France, has denied he leaked classified documents about the deal to Jonathan Dimbleby for his book on Mr Patten's term of

office as governor. Mr Patten said that if the allegations of a smear campaign against him were true, the Prime Minister's aides would have been acting like "witch-doctors" and not doctors.

"I'm troubled at the way this came out. I think it's extremely unlikely that the Government has had a hand in this in terms of news manipulation.

"I think it's far more likely that it's come from some source hostile to Chris Patten and all that he has done in Hong Kong, either in or close to the Foreign Office," Mr Ashdown said on BBC Radio.

But he said that was the "small change" of the issue: "The big issue is to what extent there may or may not have been a conspiracy, written or unwritten, which did not serve either the best interests of the people of Hong Kong or the best traditions of the British foreign service."

The allegations in Mr Dimbleby's book went "to the heart of the integrity of the British administration, and the extent to which it served the best interests of the people of Hong Kong at that time".

"We have a full set of twelve videos and a SANYO Actioncam Point and Shoot Palmcorder.

With each video is the original theatrical trailer and informative film guide including cast details and full synopsis.

To enter this MGM Modern Classics competition simply dial the number below, answer the following question on line leaving your name and full address:

Which famous actor played in both *Midnight Cowboy* and *Rainman*?

Call 0930 525 737

**Ashdown enters fray over HK plot claims**

Colin Brown  
Chief Political Correspondent

Paddy Ashdown last night demanded an inquiry by a Commons select committee into allegations that Britain colluded with China in the handover of Hong Kong.

He wrote to Tony Blair, urging him to give government support to an inquiry by the Foreign Affairs Select Committee, but stopped short of seeking an investigation into Tory claims that Chris Patten, the former Hong Kong Governor, was "smeared" by Mr Blair's aides over the affair.

"We are not interested in Tory allegations of news management. It is not our prime concern," said a spokesman for Mr Ashdown.

Mr Patten, holidaying in France, has denied he leaked classified documents about the deal to Jonathan Dimbleby for his book on Mr Patten's term of

office as governor. Mr Patten said that if the allegations of a smear campaign against him were true, the Prime Minister's aides would have been acting like "witch-doctors" and not doctors.

"I'm troubled at the way this came out. I think it's extremely unlikely that the Government has had a hand in this in terms of news manipulation.

"I think it's far more likely that it's come from some source hostile to Chris Patten and all that he has done in Hong Kong, either in or close to the Foreign Office," Mr Ashdown said on BBC Radio.

But he said that was the "small change" of the issue: "The big issue is to what extent there may or may not have been a conspiracy, written or unwritten, which did not serve either the best interests of the people of Hong Kong or the best traditions of the British foreign service."

The allegations in Mr Dimbleby's book went "to the heart of the integrity of the British administration, and the extent to which it served the best interests of the people of Hong Kong at that time".

"We have a full set of twelve videos and a SANYO Actioncam Point and Shoot Palmcorder.

With each video is the original theatrical trailer and informative film guide including cast details and full synopsis.

To enter this MGM Modern Classics competition simply dial the number below, answer the following question on line leaving your name and full address:

Which famous actor played in both *Midnight Cowboy* and *Rainman*?

Call 0930 525 737

**This little ad could make a big difference to your mortgage.**

- It's easy to transfer.
- Our mortgage rate is 7.32% (7.5% APR variable).
- Call us now for more details.

0161 649 9099 0161 831 9099 0141 221 9099  
LONDON MANCHESTER GLASGOW  
CALL ANYTIME 8am to 8pm Monday to Friday and 9am to 5pm Saturday. Please quote ref. IND134. A Royal Bank of Scotland company.

Subject to status. Life assurance to cover the loan and property required. Rates correct from 18/7/97. Subject to verification. Written quotations on request. HOME IS AT RISK IF YOU DO NOT KEEP UP REPAYMENTS ON A MORTGAGE OR OTHER LOAN SECURED ON IT. Terms may be recorded on your added security. Direct Line is a registered trade mark of Direct Line Insurance plc, used with its permission.

**faster and cheaper than the AA or RAC**

call free today on  
**0800 001 353**

quote ref. no. 001 and your credit/debit card number  
www.greenflag.co.uk

Green Flag Motoring Assistance

WE LEAVE EVERYONE STANDING BUT YOU

http://www.greenflag.co.uk

**THE INDEPENDENT**

WIN a set of Modern Classics and a SANYO Actioncam Point and Shoot Palmcorder



Modern Classics is the essential collection for any film buff to add to their library, films which have been selected for their pioneering acting, technical craft and scriptwriting.

This collection includes *Raging Bull*, 2001: *A Space Odyssey*, *The Defiant Ones*, *In the Heat of the Night*, *Midnight Cowboy*, *Ryan's Daughter*, *Get Carter*, *Last Tango in Paris*, *Annie Hall*, *Manhattan*, *Rainman* and *Thelma and Louise*.

We have a full set of twelve videos and a SANYO Actioncam Point and Shoot Palmcorder to win.

Costs 50p per entry at all times. Viewer paid at selection after this close 9th August 1997. Usual Newspaper Publishing rules apply. Editor's decision is final.

**CAR INSURANCE**  
**Looking for the LOWEST premium?**

**0500 333 600**

TO CLAIM YOUR FREE ROAD ATLAS PLEASE QUOTE REF 9676

LINES ARE OPEN 8am-8pm WEEKDAYS, 9am-5pm SATURDAYS.

**Exclusive Road Atlas FREE with every quote**

**PHONE FREE**

**0500 333 600**

TO CLAIM YOUR FREE ROAD ATLAS PLEASE QUOTE REF 9676

LINES ARE OPEN

8am-8pm WEEKDAYS,

9am-5pm SATURDAYS.





# Couriers strike at heart of America

David Usborne  
New York

The White House says it is not sufficiently serious to cause it to intervene, but a strike that is crippling the United Parcel Service (UPS) in the United States is a giant spanner thrown in the works of an otherwise booming society.

The nationwide stoppage by 155,000 members of the Teamsters Union that began on Monday has virtually shut down UPS operations in the US and is already hobbling the myriad industries and companies across the country that depend on its sprawling network for the distribution of their products.

It also threatens disappointment to millions of Americans who increasingly do their shopping by catalogue and who in the 1990s have come to expect a standard of overnight service that has grown out of a more generalised "we'll get it to you by yesterday-madam" consumer-is-king mentality.

Indeed, the brown blur of the lumbering UPS vans and their drivers in all-brown jackets, shorts and socks has become as much a feature of the American landscape as takeaways and the yellow school bus. With no new tills scheduled, there seemed little chance yesterday of it returning any time soon.

"This strike is a symbolic tear into the fabric of the American flag," remarked Carol Moog, president of Creative Focus, a market research company. "UPS is a contemporary Pony Express."

It is particularly jarring at a time when in almost every other respect America is remarkably at peace with itself. Consumer confidence is at a record high as what economists have dubbed the "Goldilocks scenario" is delivering rock-bottom unemployment with

barely a whisper of inflation. Under US law, the President can order a return to work in a dispute if the national good is deemed to be in jeopardy. In February, Mr Clinton sent American Airlines pilots back to work when they walked out, but yesterday the White House said that the standard had not been met in the UPS case.

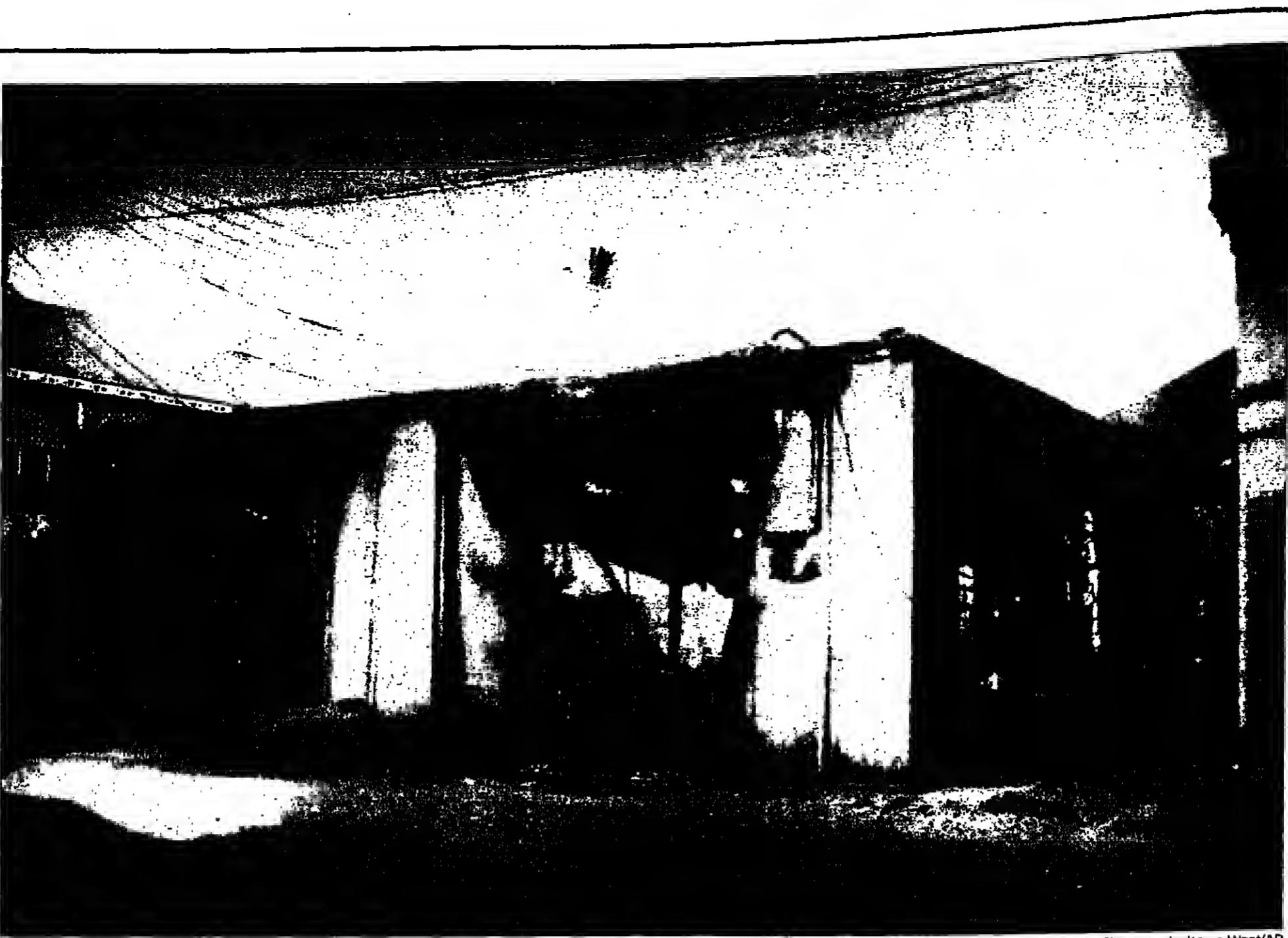
There may be a change of heart, however, if the stoppage drags on. UPS is the world's largest courier company. In the US, it is twice the size of the giant Federal Express and handles some 12 million packages a day. So far, the strike has not spread to its foreign operations in Europe or elsewhere.

There are also extraordinarily high stakes involved in the dispute which is involving more workers than any labour dispute in the US this decade. For one, it represents a brave gamble by the once-mighty Teamsters Union to reassert its muscle after a decade of declining clout.

More important, however, is the principal issue in the dispute: the increasing reliance of UPS on part-time workers, who on average are paid only \$8.50 an hour by the company compared with \$19 for full-time employees.

This resonates far and wide here, where the single most convincing downside to the Goldilocks economy is the emergence of so-called "throw-away", or burger-flipping, jobs that offer little remuneration and no security. With flexibility and low-cost efficiency as the watchwords espoused by employers, some 18 per cent of workers in the US are on part-time deals.

This trend could be put in reverse, however, if the Teamsters prevail in the strike which might embolden unions at other companies to challenge the fairness of refusing new employees full-time contracts.



Photograph: Kevin West/AP

## Montserrat's deserted capital is engulfed by volcano's fire

Phil Davison  
Antigua  
Louise Jury  
London

Plymouth, historic capital of the British colony of Montserrat, appeared headed for total destruction yesterday after a second day of volcanic eruption. The town that once housed 50,000 people – evacuated to the hills, other islands or Britain two years ago – has been showered with red-hot debris from the towering Soufrière volcano.

The local government offices, the police headquarters and the town's central petrol station have all been set on fire.

"Plymouth is pretty much all gone," said a helicopter pilot, Jim McMahon, after surveying the deserted capital yesterday morning. "Most of the town has now been affected one way or the other."

Scientists met yesterday to discuss the latest eruptions and decide whether the rest of the island – increasingly showered with debris since Sunday – was

safe for the 5,000 or so islanders who remain, many of them in shelters.

"It's taken the heart out of Plymouth, if you will," said Phil Ellis, a spokesman for the British governor's office. "It's peppered the area with pebbles about an inch thick. The pyroclastic flow is now running easily through Plymouth since the path has been cleared by the initial flow. Many buildings have been razed. If it's the worst activity since last September, we're encouraging everyone to move to higher ground."

In Britain, a benefit concert for Montserrat is to be held at the Royal Albert Hall in central London next month has stars such as Eric Clapton, Elton John, Mark Knopfler, Paul McCartney and Sting lined up to perform. All 4,500 tickets were sold within 90 minutes of the box office opening last Friday. Callers were each limited to four tickets for the 15 September show at prices ranging from £25 to £100. It is hoped at least £500,000 will be raised for the relief effort and to rebuild the island. All the musicians are giving their services for free.

The concert was the brainchild of Sir George Martin, the former Beatles producer who has a home on the island. His recording studio, where all the concert's stars have recorded, was destroyed by the first volcanic eruption in 1995.

Announcing the relief effort for the people of the island, Sir George said: "Their warmth and kindness throughout the 10 years that Air Studios operated in Montserrat was overwhelming. For two years I have

seen them suffer and live in appalling conditions with enormous courage and fortitude, and when the volcano erupted most violently in June, I knew I had to help in some way."

"I contacted many of the great artists who had recorded there and I am deeply touched by their ready response to help and perform."

The artists will play solo, in duets and all together on stage for a grand finale.

Geoff Baker, spokesman for Sir Paul McCartney, said the former Beatle was one of the first to use George Martin's studios, producing both *Tie a Yellow Ribbon* and *Ebony and Ivory*.

Sting is obviously a very old and dear friend from way back and this concert is the sort of thing Paul would do anyway.

He loved the people when he was there. Thousands of them have been made homeless. It's like a paradise lost," Mr Baker said.

Sir George bought a plot of land and adopted the island as a second home in 1979. During the Eighties, a string of top bands played in the studio before relaxing by the pool or strolling to the beach. Dire Straits made the album *Brothers in Arms* and the Police recorded *Synchronicity*. The Rolling Stones rubbed shoulders with Duran Duran, Status Quo with Roger Daltrey of The Who.



Volunteers: Sting (above) and Elton John (below) have promised to play at the Montserrat concert



"I have seen them suffer ... I had to help in some way"

seen them suffer and live in appalling conditions with enormous courage and fortitude, and when the volcano erupted most violently in June, I knew I had to help in some way."

"I contacted many of the great artists who had recorded there and I am deeply touched

## Europe's fat cats facing a leaner winter

Katherine Butler  
Brussels

The August exodus from the EU nerve-centre is under way, but tightly paid Eurocrats face a leaner than usual winter, now that their perks are set to come under the axe.

The belt-tightening drive to monetarist union is taking its toll in most member-states but the austerity drive is beginning to bite in Brussels too. A yearly parcel of tax-free drink and a supermarket where only Eurocrats are blamed for driving up rents and creating urban blight in the inner city with a sprawl of office buildings.

The Germans, who claim to pay most of the EU's bills, are impatient for reform. In negotiations on the Amsterdam treaty this year Bonn demanded legal changes to wrest control over EU officials' pay from the Commission. Werner Hoyer, minister for European affairs, said the image of the "Euro fat-cat" was partly to blame for public hostility to a single European currency in Germany. Germany's bid failed and the treaty concluded in June contains nothing which undermines the Commission's right to go on setting its own lavish pay-scales.

Conscious of the poor image suffered by the Brussels bureaucracy, Erkki Lillinen, the commissioner in charge of personnel, is preparing for a clampdown. He plans to target the tax-free drinks and "Econo-

## French say no to le business speak Anglais

John Lichfield  
Paris

Anglophones try to retain their *jeu de vivre* even though their life is in a cul de sac. Why should French businessmen not practise le hard-selling and le commercialisation of their products de standing in le prime-time?

The French Ministry of Culture takes the view, reasonably enough, that linguistic immigration, like any other kind, is tolerable in moderation. When it becomes an uncontrolled flood, it is time to grow worried about the market des millions de mountain-bikes avec un look de standing qui allait devenir un must ... sans recourir au dumping ou au hard-sell.

Despite all the efforts of the Académie Française to maintain the beauty and purity of the language, French business-speak is drowning in Anglicisms. The Ministry of Culture, in its summer newsletter, asks subscribers to join in a competition to find the best French substitutes for words and phrases such as le just-in-time, le copy-strategy, le sleeping-partner, le fresh-money and even le deal.

The competition, devised by the Association to Promote Business French, has already been attempted by 32,000, mainly young, French speakers around the world. The Culture Ministry has now thrown the contest open to all readers of its newsletter in the hope that they will spend part of their summer holidays racking their brains for French synonyms for le bus-catalogue or le personnal-communicator.

French substitutes suggested by previous competitors include le briefage for le briefing; message électronique for e-mail; télécopie for fax; vente agressive for hard-selling; and vente à perte for dumping. The effort is creditable enough. Many of the buzz-phrases are annoying enough in English, without being accepted into French. Perhaps more worrying for France, the linguistic invasion reflects a stubborn fact: most of these business concepts and inventions have English names because they were invented in the Anglo-Saxon (mostly American) world.

# CASH FOR QUESTIONS.

power yourself with a Mercantile Credit Loan

Applying for an unsecured loan from Mercantile Credit really is straightforward, whether you're borrowing £500 or £15,000.

Take the test opposite – with a score of 12 or more, it's well worth calling us about a Mercantile Credit loan. But even if you have a score of 11 or less, we'll take all your personal circumstances into account when you call to apply.

Your monthly repayments are fixed, and we'll give you up to seven years to pay us back.

You don't need any deposit or security. We guarantee a quick decision. And we're open every day from 7am to 11pm.

So now you've completed our 5 easy questions we have just one more – why not call us free now?

PHONE FOR A FAST LOAN – QUOTING REF 4855

**0800 111 777**

OR, COMPLETE THE COUPON OPPOSITE.

MERCANTILE CREDIT CHECK				
1. How old are you? Score				
under 25	over 25			
0	5			
2. Where do you live? Score				
With parents	Rent furnished	Rent unfurnished	Own mortgaged	Own outright
1	2	3	4	5
3. How long have you lived there? Score				
Under 2 years	2-4 years	5-8 years	9-14 years	15 years or more
1	2	3	4	5
4. What do you earn a year? Score				
£10,000+	£15,000+	£20,000+		
1	2	3		
5. How long have you been with your current employer? Score				
Under 2 years	2-4 years	5-8 years	Over 9 years	
1	2	3	4	5

This test is for your information only. It does not necessarily reflect the weight we give to any factor. It does not include many of the factors considered in evaluating a loan request such as payment history and your ability to service your monthly obligations. Final loan approval is not guaranteed by any score on this list.

Total Score

**MERCANTILE CREDIT**

Please complete me today by sending me details of your direct personal loans. Send completed coupon to Mercantile Credit, PO Box 117, FREEPOST SEA 0521, Crawley, West Sussex RH9 2BR. No stamp required.

4855

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Postcode \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone \_\_\_\_\_  
Position \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature \_\_\_\_\_

BARCLAYS BANK PLC TRADING AS MERCANTILE CREDIT, REGISTERED OFFICE 54 LOMBARD STREET, LONDON EC2P 5AP, REGISTERED IN ENGLAND REG. NO. 1028167. BARCLAYS BANK PLC IS A MEMBER OF THE BANKING OMBUDSMAN SCHEME. LOANS ARE NOT AVAILABLE TO PERSONS WHO ARE UNFIT TO CONTRACT. LOANS ARE NOT RECOMMENDED OR MONITORED FOR AGE. SUBJECT TO STATUS. PERSONAL CREDIT. FREEPHONE PO BOX 281, LIVERPOOL L6 9TR. WRITTEN QUOTATIONS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST FROM THIS ADDRESS. TYPICAL EXAMPLE LOAN OF £5,000 FOR 12 MONTHS AT 13.9% APR. APR IS FIXED AT 13.9%. SECOND REPAYMENT £14,448. TOTAL AMOUNT PAYABLE £19,448. APR IS FIXED AT 13.9%. TYPICAL EXAMPLE LOAN OF £10,000 FOR 24 MONTHS WITHOUT PAYMENT PROTECTOR PLAN AT 13.9% APR. APR IS FIXED AT 13.9%.

£10,000 13.9%

# Moscow, we have another problem. Oxygen supply fails as Mir rescue mission launched

**Charles Arthur and Helen Womack** on the troubled space station's latest crisis

Even on its successful days, the Russian space programme has mixed news. There were no problems with the blast-off at 4.35pm BST of Soyuz rocket TM26, from Baikonur in the former Soviet republic of Kazakhstan, carrying a two-man crew to relieve two of the exhausted trio aloft in the Mir space station. They are due to arrive on Thursday.

However, hours before the launch, mission control announced that the oxygen generators on board the ageing space station had failed – although they emphasised that there was no danger of the three men aboard dying of suffocation.

The two men who were last night en route to Mir, Commander Anatoly Solovyov, 49, and flight engineer Pavel Vinogradov, 43, will have to carry out repairs which are crucial to the entire future of the Russian space programme. Starting on 20 August, one of them will have to undertake a difficult spacewalk inside the cramped, but de-pressurised Spektr module, holed on 25 June by a miscalculation during docking practice with an unmanned supply ship. The intention is to reconnect power cables cut on 25 June when the module was sealed off, and find and patch the leak.

In external spacewalks, the hulky space suit is encumbered by peripheral clutter. By contrast, this will be one of the most complex ever undertaken, even the main part of Mir is only four metres in diameter, and the hole in Spektr is reckoned to lie towards the far end of the module. If floating debris or a wall projection punctures the space suit, the cosmonaut inside will die.

The repairs are expected to require six spacewalks, both internal and external.

The importance to Moscow of this mission was underlined by the presence at the launch of government ministers: Baikonur (which Russia is now obliged to rent from its satellite republic) has rarely been the focus of so much official attention since Yuri Gagarin blasted off from there in 1961 to become the first man in space.

There have been some misgivings that financial problems and the repeated technical troubles aboard Mir – which has now racked up a worrying 1,500 malfunctions in its 65,000 45-minute orbits – could mean that these will be the last Russian men in space. Hence the importance of making these repairs to the 11-year-old station – even though Russian authorities have acknowledged that its core will have to be replaced sometime in the next two years.

Since the accident in June, the present crew, Vasily Tsibliev, Alexander Lazutkin and British-born Michael Foale, have had to manage with reduced power supplies. Those problems multiplied when the Electron oxygen generation system broke down again, as it had been prone to do of late.

It sounded dramatic but officials at Mission Control explained there was no cause for alarm as Mir itself was large enough for the existing supply of oxygen to last several days. After that, the astronauts had access to canisters of oxygen which could keep them breathing for a further two months. But the generator should be fixed long before canisters became necessary, they said. The arriving crew will also have canisters available.

The changeover of crew will be a difficult space ballet. First, a Progress supply ship must be undocked from the main capsule, while Tsibliev and Lazutkin get into the Soyuz TM25 lifeboat. Then the arriving crew on TM26 will dock where the Progress was. The new crew will take over from the old one. Once the two departing Russians embark for Earth in the TM25, the TM26 will be brought around to the docking spot they have vacated. Then the work can begin.

Mission Control decided some weeks ago that the present crew was too exhausted by the constant problems – failing oxygen generators, lack of sleep, variations in temperature caused by failing power generators – to carry out the delicate work. One American astronaut has described doing repairs while wearing a spacesuit as “like doing surgery while wearing boxing gloves”.

On one previous occasion, Michael Foale had to abandon a spacewalk when he found he was losing sensation in his fingers, which were freezing. During these space-

walks, he will wait in the TM26 in case an evacuation becomes necessary. Foale's American replacement, David Wolf, is not due to arrive by Atlantis Shuttle until the end of September.

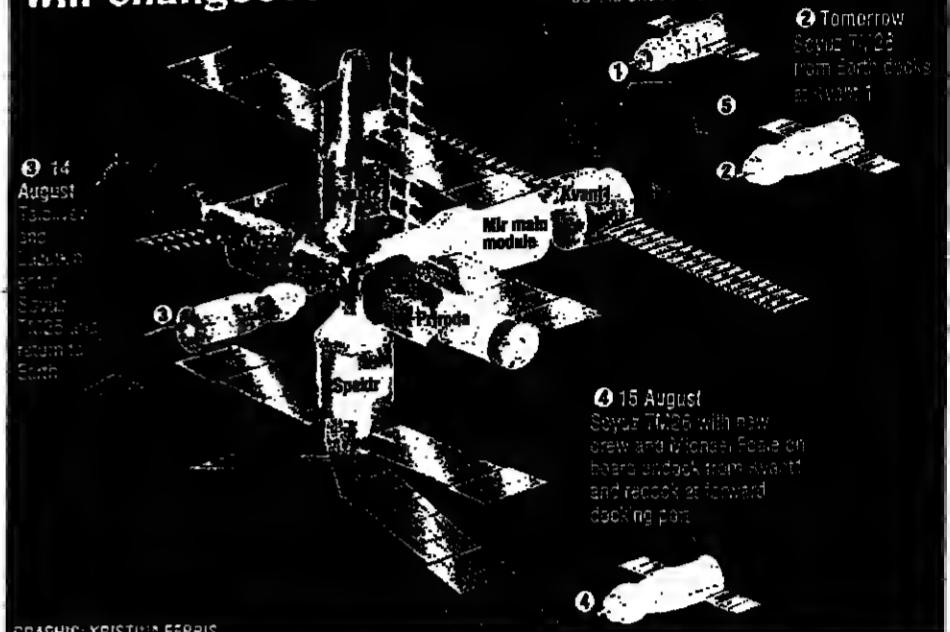
Space professionals are becoming used to crises on Mir, which to the layman sound horrific. On one occasion, the waste disposal system failed, turning the station into an orbiting lavatory, and fire has also broken out on Mir which, when it was launched 11 years ago, was supposed to have a service life of only five years.

Post-Communist Russia, which has not been able to pay its pensioners and state sector workers on time, is desperately short of funds for its once prestigious space programme, which many people now see as a luxury. The outcome of the repair mission will determine whether Moscow's hope of using Mir for two more years is realistic.



Mir-bound: Cosmonauts Solovyov (below) and Vinogradov (above) at Baikonur yesterday. Photograph: AP

## How the crews will changeover



GRAPHIC: KRISTINA FERRIS

## Calendar of disaster

February – A fire breaks out on board.

5 May – British born astronaut Michael Foale blasts off on Earth on the Atlantis shuttle to undertake vital repairs on Mir.



5 June – Mir's airless Spektr module is damaged during a practice docking with the cargo ship. The ensuing collision results in a disconnected cable which ruptures the space module.

Mir is forced to run on reduced power and some areas of the ship are shut down to conserve energy.

28 June – Mir drifts out of control for hours after a computer problem disables the steering. It is believed that a power surge or other electrical problem knocked out a computer as the crew slept.



Meanwhile, Russian space chiefs plan to send Foale on a perilous spacewalk to execute repairs. But the plan is abandoned as problems mount on the ailing craft.

19 July – A rescue relief craft prepares to go to Mir to repair the ship. Mission control had previously entrusted repairs to the existing crew but decided a new team should undertake the work after the commander, Vasily Tsibliev developed heart trouble.

5 August – Anatoly Solovyov and flight engineer Pavel Vinogradov blast off in a Soyuz-U booster rocket to relieve Mir's beleaguered crew, who are facing new problems as their oxygen generators have broken down. The crew must now manage on their existing oxygen supplies and oxygen canisters.

Russian space officials play down the seriousness of the problem and stress that there is no immediate danger. It is only now revealed that the oxygen generators have been periodically breaking down throughout the past week.

RUSSIAN SPACE

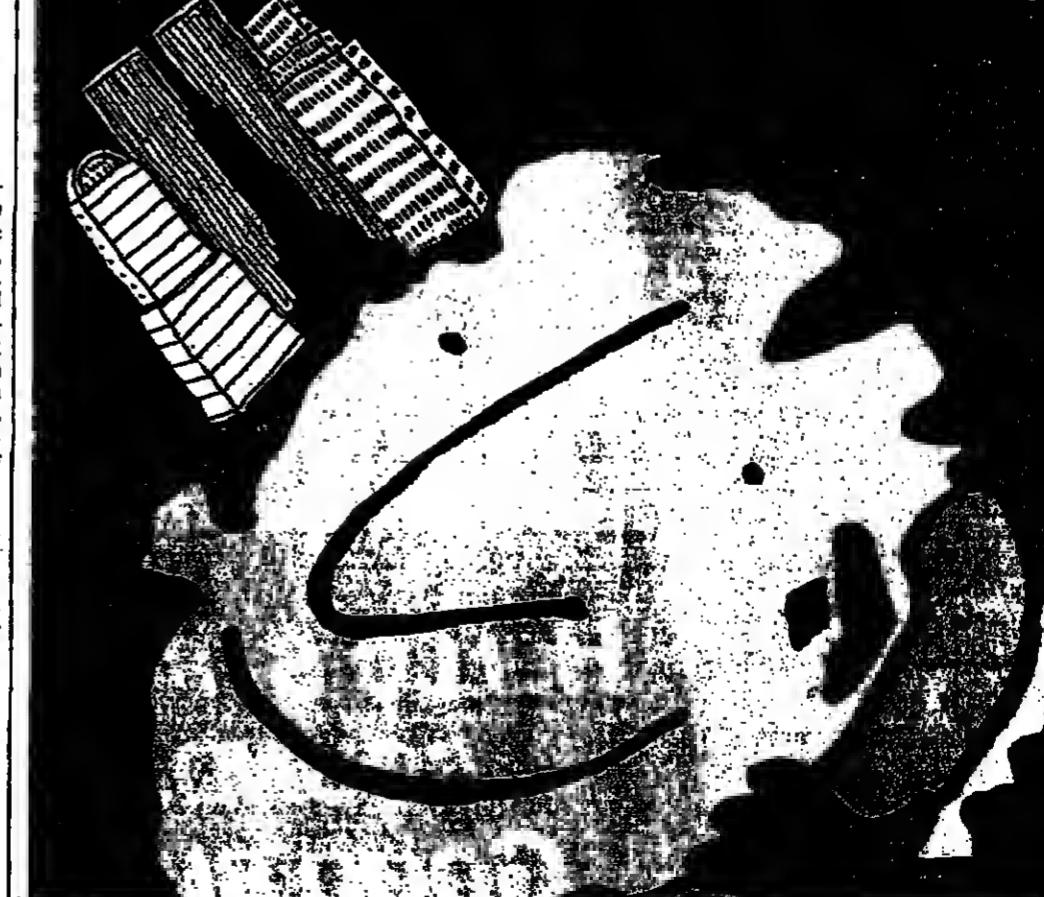
OFFICIALS PLAY DOWN THE SERIOUSNESS OF THE PROBLEM AND STRESS THAT THERE IS NO IMMEDIATE DANGER. IT IS ONLY NOW REVEALED THAT THE OXYGEN GENERATORS HAVE BEEN PERIODICALLY BREAKING DOWN THROUGHOUT THE PAST WEEK.

MERCURY

CABLE & WIRELESS

WITH MERCURY SMARTCALL YOU  
CAN SAVE 20% ON  
CALLS TO NEW YORK. NEW YORK.

GOOD DEAL. GOOD DEAL.



With Mercury SmartCall, you can enjoy savings of at least 20% on international calls weekday evenings and all weekend. What's more, you can also save 24% on an evening long distance UK call. And 16% on a local evening call. In fact, we're so confident that you'll save money on your call bill with Mercury (even against BT's PremierLine and Friends and Family), that if you don't, we'll refund double the difference. For details call the number below. Double quick.

**Mercury SmartCall  
FreeCall 0500 500 366**

say no  
business  
Anglais

## Israel's deadly raid spells end of Lebanon ceasefire

Robert Fisk  
Beirut



Face of anger: Palestinian President Yasser Arafat, speaking at a press conference yesterday, accuses Israel of wrecking the peace process in the wake of last week's Jerusalem suicide bombs. Photograph: AP

The Israeli military spokesman reported “accurate hits” during yesterday’s midday air raid on the lower Bekaa valley of Lebanon. Which was odd, because the casualties were all civilians: two farmers, aged 70 and 50, killed outright by one of two missiles fired by the Israeli jets, another farmer of 70 seriously wounded, two children and a fourth civilian hurt. Not a single Hezbollah guerrilla was reported to have been injured in the raid around the tiny village of Lehaia. So how much longer can the south Lebanon ceasefire – if it can still be dignified with such a name – hold?

“We’re waiting for the Katyushas to go over the border,” a Lebanese army officer commented grimly in the aftermath of the raid, assuming that the Hezbollah would fire across the frontier into Israel instead of waiting for another meeting of the powerless five-power truce monitoring committee. Only a few hours earlier, the pro-Iranian guerrilla army had promised “sharp and tough response that will make the enemy suffer” following Monday’s Israeli helicopter landing which left five guerrillas dead at Kfouri in southern Lebanon.

Lebaia is in an area of the Bekaa in which the Hezbollah operates; it is from around the nearby town of Rashaya that they frequently launch raids

against Israel’s occupation zone in southern Lebanon and its 1,500 occupation troops. But yesterday’s Israeli raid was in both political and military terms a disaster. The two dead farmers, who were picking sesame seeds when they were

killed, were named as Mohamed Hazzam and Ali Aki, both Shiite Muslims.

It now transpires that in Monday’s raid on the Hezbollah, one of the five guerrillas who were blown up by bombs left by the Israelis was Sheikh Thaïs-

Prizes and savings correct at 30/06/1997, compared against BT's basic rates for calls of 5 minutes, 6pm-8am weekdays and any time at weekends. Savings available for a quarterly fee of £4.30 (inc. VAT). Price Plus terms apply against BT's basic rates and discount schemes, excluding line rental and temporary promotional offers. Not available on Calling Card or business packages.

## international



Mandela: One of the most respected men in the world

# Mandela effect could help to break the East Timor logjam

Richard Lloyd Parry

Of all the world's statesmen, Nelson Mandela and President Suharto are the two whom one would least expect to have anything constructive to say to one another.

Since his transformation from political prisoner to leader of South Africa, the former has become one of the most respected men in the world, a symbol of the triumph of justice over oppression. President Suharto of Indonesia, by contrast, is a polar opposite: a stern autocrat and liberal bogeyman with a grim record of political oppression. But, against all expectations, the two have become correspondents. And hopes are

rising that their unexpected entente could provide a solution to one of the most stubborn wars in the world.

The conflict in question is that of East Timor, the former Portuguese colony invaded by Indonesia in 1976. Ever since its act of annexation the following year, Jakarta has refused to brook any compromise, and brutally crushed the dwindling East Timorese resistance.

United Nations-supervised talks between Indonesia and Portugal, which is still recognised in the UN as the administering power, have been deadlocked for years. But inevitably - and despite a mortifying hiccup this week - things may at last be moving, thanks

to the discreet personal intervention of the South African president.

With piquant symbolism, Mr Mandela is concentrating his diplomatic efforts on the fate of a celebrated political prisoner - Xanana Gusmao, the leader of the East Timorese resistance, who is serving a 20-year prison sentence. Last month, Mr Mandela made an official visit to Indonesia.

A week after his departure, to general astonishment, it emerged that he had requested and been allowed a meeting with Mr Gusmao, inside the grounds of President Suharto's palace.

"We can never normalise the situation until all the leaders, in-

cluding Gusmao, are free," Mr Mandela said last week, after meeting in Pretoria with the Portuguese President, Jorge Sampaio.

He formally requested Mr Gusmao's release in a private letter to President Suharto which this week became the focus of a profound diplomatic embarrassment.

Instead of being delivered directly to Mr Suharto, it appears to have been delivered to the Portuguese embassy in Pretoria, which leaked it to journalists in Lisbon.

For this, the Portuguese ambassador has been expelled, though the bungle does not appear to have done lasting damage to the nascent negotiations.

Despite their contrasting backgrounds, Mr Mandela and President Suharto are said to have a warm personal relationship, based no doubt on Indonesia's support for the African National Congress during the apartheid period.

Both countries are former Dutch colonies, and leading members of the Non-Aligned Movement, the UN of the developing world.

But it is a measure of Mr Mandela's global standing that he is able to broach with President Suharto what is almost a taboo subject in Indonesian political circles.

The timing of the initiative also provides reasons for expectation. The stalled UN talks

resumed this week, and there are rumours, so far denied, that the Secretary-General, Kofi Annan, will soon travel to Pretoria. On 17 August Indonesia celebrates Independence Day, a traditional time for the release of prisoners.

"If Bill Clinton had suggested this, he would probably have got a stiff response," said a diplomat in Jakarta.

"But next to Mother Teresa, it's hard for them to know what to do with Mandela. He's got such broad clout, particularly in the Third World."

"It's pressure on the Indonesians but it also gives them a kind of cover to solve this problem without losing so much face."



Suharto: Bogeyman of the liberals, with a grim record

The cabaret doors are open once more in Immoral Berlin, birthplace of sexual freedom

Imre Karacs reports on 100 years of the Gay Metropolis

The flattened scrubland in the arch of the River Spree, where Helmut Kohl hopes one day to indulge in his passion for breeding rabbits, is bawdy ground. There is nothing here now, except the bulldozers levelling the earth so work can soon begin on the new cbancery.

But some time ago, before the machines, the barbed wire and the bunkers, there stood a very special building on this plot. It was Magnus Hirschfeld's Institute for Sexual Research, a shrine dedicated to studying the love which only in Berlin dared speak its name.

Nothing is left now of the man and the place, except the distant echoes of the bedouin days of the Roaring Twenties and the asics of retribution exacted by another bunch of leather-clad men a decade later. That Berlin in its golden age was more than a just string of wild cabaret spots, and that it drank in all of freedom long before the rest of the world discovered the Eldorado night club, is almost forgotten. Yet, for a brief interval between despotism and annihilation, this was the capital of enlightenment: the place where liberation of every kind began. Now the city's gay community, eclipsed in the meantime by the likes of San Francisco, wants to put the record straight.

An exhibition entitled "Goodbye to Berlin? - 100 Years of Gay Liberation", has been running for two months at the Academy of Arts, a worn Sixties concrete pile a short walk from the pioneering institute. It is in Hirschfeld's apartment that the century of emancipation began in May 1897, when the doctor and three of his friends set up the first organisation in the world openly committed to fighting sexual intolerance.

The "Scientific-Humanitarian Com-



mittee" was their outraged response to the imprisonment, two years previously, of Oscar Wilde. The first months of the movement were bedevilled by internal ideological strife as the founders sought to spread their influence worldwide. A certain Sigmund Freud from Vienna was the most prominent early defector. He had insisted that homosexuality, while not a crime, was a disease - a diagnosis not acceptable to the homosexual Hirschfeld. Nevertheless, despite its modest start, the committee had enough clout by 1899 to reach a modus vivendi with the Berlin police, persuading them to stop raiding cafés frequented by gays.

This was an era of double standards.

**'This was where liberation of every kind began'**

The authorities often turned a blind eye to homosexuality because many powerful men in Prussia, including a top general and a close confidant of the kaiser, were gay. But there were frequent scandals and those exposed faced a life in ruin. Not surprisingly, it was in the Berlin of this period that "outing" was invented. Many hypocrites were thus expelled from the closet, but the weapon sometimes proved double-edged. In 1907 an anarchist gay publisher named Adolf Brand aimed a little too high, "outing" the reactionary Reichschancellor Prince von Bismarck. He sued for defamation and Brand ended up in jail.

In all this time, the committee published books, collected signatures, and campaigned for the repeal of the

notorious Paragraph 175 proscribing homosexuality. They were never to succeed, but love between men eventually became *de facto* tolerated in the Weimar republic. And so the German capital became the "Gay Metropolis", "Immoral Berlin" - in the words of the title of a 1930 alternative guide - the home of Auden, Isherwood, Spender and other artists drawn to its permissive milieu.

It is no coincidence that when 1933 came, Hirschfeld's institute was singled out for an early ransacking and book-burning visit. The committee was forced into exile and, after Hitler's coup a year later against Ernst Röhm, the gay - leader of the Nazi storm-troopers, a war was declared on "deviants". The police were ordered to draw up lists. Some 30,000 Germans were convicted of homosexuality, many perishing in concentration camps. Those who escaped went on to carry the torch beyond the Third Reich, helping to set up gay self-help organisations in their adopted homes.

These days, when Dr Hirschfeld's institute is gone yet the whole of Berlin seems engaged again in sexual experimentation, it is difficult to conceive why it took nearly three decades after the war to right the wrongs. Homosexual acts between consenting adults were only legalised in the former West Germany in 1973, and a lot later in the East.

United Berlin is now making up for lost time, but finds itself, as in so many other things, overtaken. The slogans and tactics of the movement born by the River Spree: have to be reimposed from the United States, from "Gay Pride" marches to lobbying techniques developed across the Atlantic. Curiously, "outing" has yet to return. Perhaps Berlin gays learnt their lesson first time round, exactly 90 years ago.

## Das Gesicht der Demokratie



Dr. Magnus Hirschfeld

hat selbst so unglaublich viel sex appeal, daß er der geeignete „Wahrer der sexuellen Balance“ der neudaitischen Jugend und Vorkämpfer für Aufhebung des § 175 ist.

Exploration: Main picture, Liza Minnelli and Joel Grey starring in Cabaret, based on Isherwood's stories of Berlin in the early Thirties. Above, Hirschfeld, 'fitting' founder of the Institute for Sexual Research

## significant shorts

### Clinton and Gingrich hail budget-balancing deal

President Bill Clinton signed legislation aimed at balancing the budget and giving \$95bn (£60bn) in tax cuts. The Republican Speaker, Newt Gingrich, stood with Mr Clinton on a stage set up on the South Lawn to celebrate the legislation. "We come here today, Democrats and Republicans, Congress and president, Americans of goodwill from all points of view and all walks of life, to celebrate a true milestone for our nation," said Mr Clinton, who signed two bills, approved last week by the Republican-controlled Congress, one that aims to balance the budget by 2002 and a companion piece that cuts taxes by \$95bn over five years. AP - Washington

### Japan to cut US bases cash

Japan is likely to cut contributions to maintaining US armed forces on its soil from next year, *Asahi* newspaper said. It would be the first reduction since Japan started paying part of the costs of running US military bases in 1978. The Defence Agency has made no formal decision, although it is considering a reduction, the Foreign Ministry said. This year Japan will pay 273.7bn yen (£14.4bn) towards the cost of keeping US troops in Japan. The contribution covers salaries for civilian employees, maintaining facilities and water and electricity. AP - Tokyo

### German MPs' patience taxed

MPs interrupted summer holidays for a special debate on Chancellor Helmut Kohl's tax-reform package but only confirmed the deadlock between government and opposition. The Finance Minister, Theo Waigel, accused the opposition Social Democrats of stalling the plan in order to spare votes. The lower house passed the proposal last month but the opposition-dominated upper house rejected it. AP - Bonn

### Tudjman starts second term

President Franjo Tudjman, who led Croatia to independence from federal Yugoslavia, was sworn in for a second five-year term in office. "I swear upon my honour that I will carry out my duties to the benefit of all Croatian citizens," he said at a colourful open-air ceremony held in front of top state and church officials and foreign ambassadors in a packed central Zagreb square cordoned by police.

Reuters - Zagreb

### Clean sweep for litterbugs

Those convicted of littering will soon have to sweep the streets in Malaysia while wearing a T-shirt bearing the words "I am a litterbug". The Housing and Local Government Minister, Ting Chew Peh, said it was hoped the public shaming would deter others. "We have come to a point where we have tried everything from stiff penalties to nationwide education campaigns, but the situation remains the same." AP - Kuala Lumpur

### Dentist screws up

A Swede with toothache was taken to hospital for X-rays after a dentist dropped a small screwdriver into his mouth and be swallowed it. The dentist, who has 20 years experience, was fastening the patient's bridge when he dropped a one-inch screwdriver and it disappeared. The patient was taken to hospital, where X-ray examinations showed the tool in his gut. Later check-ups found it in his stomach. The screwdriver did no harm and came out "the natural way". Reuters - Stockholm

### Dolomites tragedy kills seven

Seven climbers fell to their deaths in the Italian Dolomites and another had a fatal plunge in Switzerland, bringing to at least 37 the number killed in the European Alps over the past four weeks. AP - Bolzano

**Short Breaks**

The strongest pound in 6 years means a HoverSpeed Short Break to France has never been better value. (10FF = £1!).

So don't miss this opportunity to treat yourself to an all inclusive break in romantic Paris, at a secluded chateau, in picturesque Boulogne, or a golfing weekend or even at magical Disneyland Paris.

Or take advantage of our special 72 hour return fares (from £55 Folkestone - Boulogne; £59 Dover - Calais).

Call us today.

And cash in on a great value holiday.

0990 240 241

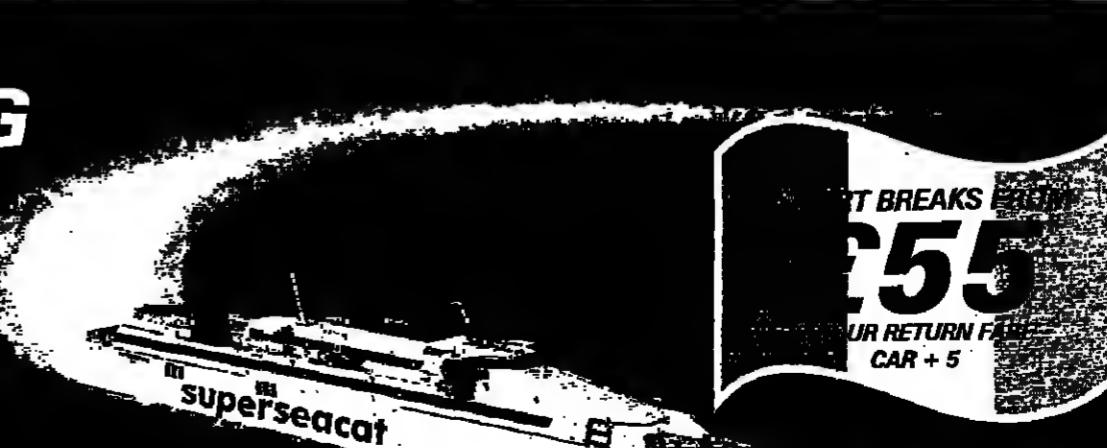
STILL THE FASTEST WAY TO FRANCE

HOVER SPEED

FAST FERRIES

<http://www.hoverspeed.co.uk>

**HELLO STRONG POUND. GOOD BUY FRANCE.**



لهم اعز من ألا أصل



Dominique Siroc missed out on the big job at Givenchy, but he has developed a loyal following of his own. By Ian Phillips

During last January's haute couture collections, the eyes and cameras of the fashion world were firmly fixed upon the Brits. With their flamboyant debut collection at Dior and Givenchy, John Galliano and Alexander McQueen monopolised the headlines and stirred up media attention across the globe. Yet, at the same time, in a beautiful town mansion near the Moulin Rouge, a little-known French designer was making waves of his own. Forty-year-old Dominique Siroc showed a small but exquisitely elegant collection, which had fashion aficionados swiftly reaching for superlatives. "Any conventional fashion-conscious woman would kill for these clothes," wrote the *International Herald Tribune's* Suzy Menkes. "The bosses of couture houses now want wacky attention-grabbing shows, rather than client-pleasers. But Siroc's collection was a timely reminder that cut and class are still the high C's of haute couture."

The name Dominique Siroc may mean little to the general public, but he was actually Hubert de Givenchy's hand-picked choice as his successor. He spent 11 years at the great designer's side, but Bernard Arnault, the boss of LVMH (which owns Givenchy's label) had other ideas. He refused to even meet with Siroc, claiming that he was not famous enough, and appointed Giuliano instead.

Siroc may only have set up his own Couture house in September of last year, but has already been invited to join the prestigious Chambre Syndicale de la Haute Couture. He is the first designer to receive this honour since Christian Lacroix 10 years ago. More importantly, former Givenchy clients have been defecting to him en masse and Siroc recounts that one has even stopped wearing Givenchy No. 3 perfume because she no longer wants to be associated with the house's name.

In the three weeks following his last collection, he received over 70 orders. Joan Collins asked him to design her outfit for her daughter's wedding. French actress Judith Godreche wore one of his dresses to the Oscars and top Parisian socialites like Marie-Therese Perrin (wife of Cartier president, Alain-Dominique) and Hélène David-Weill (wife of Lazard Frères chairman, Michel) have sported his creations to events around town.

His biggest supporter, however, is American couture client, Nan Kempner. She heard about Siroc while holidaying in Gstaad and decided to jet to Paris especially to view the collection. She came away with three outfits and offered to organise a tea party at her Park Avenue apartment so that Siroc could show off his wares to her friends. Those present included Princess Fyral of Jordan and New York socialite Anne Bass. According to Kempner, "they thought that the collection was wonderful. They were so pleased to meet somebody new and talented."

Kempner herself is literally eulogistic about his clothes. "I am just enamoured with them," she enthuses. "It's beautiful workmanship and full of ideas. His colours are good and he has a great sense of fashion." She is also pretty crazy about the town mansion in which he lives and works ("It's as attractive as anything I've ever seen"), as well as Siroc himself. "He's divine. He's adorable," she gushes. "I just find him devastatingly attractive."

In the flesh, the dark-haired Siroc is actually much better-looking than in photos. He dresses in elegant slim-fitting jackets, wears his shirt unbuttoned to beneath the chest and has a certain French suave-

ness. He is, however, at first rather defensive (he claims that as a Capricorn, he is very secretive). Yet once he opens up he is witty, garrulous and very accommodating. He gives the photographer and I a run of the house for a whole day and is equally indulgent with his cat, Moon. During the interview, she climbs onto his desk and starts to eat a bunch of flowers. Unperturbed, she then moves on to have a nibble at a pair of gloves.

The house she shares with Moon is magnificent. Situated at the end of a leafy passage near Pigalle, it was built at the end of the last century and was inhabited by leg-

ends. He is, however, at first rather defensive (he claims that as a Capricorn, he is very secretive). Yet once he opens up he is witty, garrulous and very accommodating. He gives the photographer and I a run of the house for a whole day and is equally indulgent with his cat, Moon. During the interview, she climbs onto his desk and starts to eat a bunch of flowers. Unperturbed, she then moves on to have a nibble at a pair of gloves.

The restoration work lasted over two years and Siroc decided to turn the ground floor into his office and atelier, and his first floor into his living quarters. At the top of the stairs is the former theatre, whose ceiling has been painted with a *trompe l'oeil* sky. Next door is Siroc's bedroom, with a small kitchen and bathroom on either side of the door. Almost every piece of furniture is a gem. Although there is a mixture of styles, Siroc expresses a preference for pieces from the Thirties. He has a beautiful art-deco bed and a Thirties inlaid

desk. On which he displays a framed sepia photograph of Hubert de Givenchy. Propped against a wall in the theatre is a large, black and white, dedicated photo of Audrey Hepburn, for whom he used to make accessories at Givenchy.

"One day, I asked to meet him to show him my work," remembers Siroc, "but my request was turned down with the words that 'M. Saint Laurent does not see people who are already part of the house.' That lunchtime, he went for a stroll along Avenue George V, stopped in front of the windows of the Givenchy boutique and said to himself 'After the originality of Saint Laurent, why not try the rigour of Givenchy?' He whipped up three sketches that night and by 8.10 am the next day, had been hired. He stayed until 1989, eventually becoming director of Givenchy's pret-a-porter and haute couture salons.

While Siroc's style is very much his own, he does not admit Hubert de Givenchy's influence on his designs. "He made me understand that true elegance is a case of getting rid of all excess and refining the silhouette so that only the basic essentials are left," he says. Judging from his debut collection, Siroc has learnt the lesson well. Indeed, his clothes are the epitome of modern-day style and refinement. With their simple lines and perfect cut, they flatter the female body and are wonderfully sexy.

As far as haute couture goes, they are also surprisingly cheap. He keeps fittings to a minimum and suits go for as little as 20,000 francs (£2,000) and evening dresses for no more than Fr35,000 (£3,500). Indeed, Siroc sees more affordable outfits as the future of haute couture. "We are now at a turning point," he asserts. "The big balloon, which takes 3,000 hours to make and which has 4,000 pearls on it, is no longer in touch with reality. The future of couture is not to simply make people dream. My clients wear the clothes I make



Left: Siroc's desk at his Pigalle home and studio. The designer still works under the watchful eye of a framed portrait of Hubert de Givenchy.

Photographs: Lisa Vranc

desk, on which he displays a framed sepia photograph of Hubert de Givenchy. Propped against a wall in the theatre is a large, black and white, dedicated photo of Audrey Hepburn, for whom he used to make accessories at Givenchy.

A lacquered Chinese cabinet and oriental Fortune lamps add a touch of Eastern flavour, while other pieces are very typically French. The burnt orange velvet Directoire sofa in the theatre was bought at auction while he was helping to organise a sale of haute couture outfits. In one room, he announced the oxford dress and then quickly rushed off to the adjoining room to bid for the sofa. A huge 18th-century mirror was picked up from a chateau

in Normandy, the black and gold chairs from the couture salon at Paquin and his paintings from the Montreuil flea market in the Parisian suburbs. "I would buy them at 6 am on my way home from night clubbing," he laughs. A number of sea shells are also scattered around the apartment. He has been collecting them since he was a little boy.

Siroc's interests in fashion also dates back to early childhood. By the age of seven, he knew that he wanted to be "either a fashion designer, magician or Sun King" (an early trip to Versailles apparently made a profound impression on him). His mother had been a model for a Paquin and it was through a contract of hers that he got his first job at Yves Saint Laurent in the early Seventies. He stayed there for five years, rose up to the position of *première main qualifiée*, but strangely never came into contact with Saint Laurent himself.

"One day, I asked to meet him to show him my work," remembers Siroc, "but my request was turned down with the words that 'M. Saint Laurent does not see people who are already part of the house.' That lunchtime, he went for a stroll along Avenue George V, stopped in front of the windows of the Givenchy boutique and said to himself 'After the originality of Saint Laurent, why not try the rigour of Givenchy?' He whipped up three sketches that night and by 8.10 am the next day, had been hired. He stayed until 1989, eventually becoming director of Givenchy's pret-a-porter and haute couture salons.

While Siroc's style is very much his own, he does not admit Hubert de Givenchy's influence on his designs. "He made me understand that true elegance is a case of getting rid of all excess and refining the silhouette so that only the basic essentials are left," he says. Judging from his debut collection, Siroc has learnt the lesson well. Indeed, his clothes are the epitome of modern-day style and refinement. With their simple lines and perfect cut, they flatter the female body and are wonderfully sexy.

As far as haute couture goes, they are also surprisingly cheap. He keeps fittings to a minimum and suits go for as little as 20,000 francs (£2,000) and evening dresses for no more than Fr35,000 (£3,500). Indeed, Siroc sees more affordable outfits as the future of haute couture. "We are now at a turning point," he asserts. "The big balloon, which takes 3,000 hours to make and which has 4,000 pearls on it, is no longer in touch with reality. The future of couture is not to simply make people dream. My clients wear the clothes I make



## The house that Dominique built

### Shopping with Siroc



Made to measure: Siroc's designs for day and evening for Upper East Side ladies and Parisian grandes dames who lunch, a snip at £2,000 a suit.

Photographs: Chris Moore

## Hats off to the Stetson

From cowboy to supermodel, the 10-gallon hat has made the leap from High Noon to high fashion, says Melissa Mostyn

**N**oami Campbell modelled one for *Elle*. Georgina Grenville swears by hers. James Dean lounged sedily in his for *Giant*. Beck makes an ironic point of being a musical cowboy with his. And waving one was Susan Sarandon as one half of the *Thelma and Louise* duo, having demolished a petroleum truck with a single gunshot ...

As his boots struck 1860s Texan soil for the first time, agitating its hot dust as they did so, little did John Batterson Stetson know that the hat he invented would achieve iconic status. Like many New Jersey residents, his reasons for venturing west were primarily health-related. The fact that he was also a hat manufacturer was incidental.

Early Texas cowboys driving long-horn cattle north found Mexican sombreros weighty, and the alternative - cheap American-made hats with floppy brims made from wool that would not stiffen - was undignified and uncomfortable. The demand for a better-

quality "hair case" (Texas speak for hat) inspired Stetson to set up a factory in Philadelphia to manufacture what he called the 10-gallon hat (named for its size and durability).

Stetson's reputation shot throughout the States faster than a fusillade of bullets, and made him a multi-millionaire. Regional and individual tastes spawned some distinctive variations, particularly in the shape of the Stetson's crease. You could get a Montana (very peaky), a centrefire (exactly in the middle), or a cattlemen (shallow and wide as a plain). Brims could be rodeo, ranch snap, or Aussie-style.

Today, far more "pilgrims" (non-cowboys) wear Stetsons than real cowhands. Apart from James Dean, the Stetson's most obvious association is with the Dallas posse, the most enthusiastic fan



being JR Ewing as the owner of the west of the Red River. Americans who favour Stetsons are expressing a fondness for a time when a languid journey on horseback, a slurp of "neck oil" (whiskey), a fiddle of the trigger and a visit to the hookshop epitomised the simple life.

Back in the UK, as a summer alternative to the usual canvas sun-hat, you can't beat the 10-gallon for hip value. Coupled with a string bikini and a stomach smoother than a brown saddle, it adds sex appeal while offering sun protection to your head, neck and shoulders.

Authentic cowboy

hats can be had from

The Hat Shop (0171-836 6718) in felt for around £17. Two tone Italian straw stetson, £190, by Rachel Trevor-Morgan, available from 18 Crown Passage, King Street, London SW1; ring first on 0171-839 8927. Photograph: Mark J Curran

# You can't afford to pay peanuts, Mr Blunkett

**B**ritain is not obsessed by money, but material rewards are important enough in our society for this proposition to be true: the higher the general level of teachers' pay, the higher the quality of entrants to this vital profession. The better the teachers, the better (economically, socially, culturally) Britain will be. Of course, money guarantees nothing. A lot of lawyers and doctors are very well paid, but that does not in itself say much about public health or justice. Yet if education is to get its share of the top A-level students, if those dreadful recent figures for the qualifications of entrants to undergraduate education degrees are to be improved, more money has to be part of the solution.

The establishment of a General Teaching Council and associated efforts to make teaching more like the established professions of law and medicine are welcome; likewise the sentiment behind that otherwise silly proposal to give teachers and heads a bigger share of the spoils of the honours system. Raising the status of teaching is a noble end. But David Blunkett and his fellow ministers are surely under no illusion that their ambitions for schools, especially their tight targets for numeracy and literacy at age 11, entail improvements in the quality of teachers that will have to be bought with big money.

Mr Blunkett has his chance today

when he publishes the Government's letter of guidance to the teachers' pay review body. In an ideal world what he would say is that in the financial settlement for 1998-99 money will be provided in sufficient quantity. There will be millions, in other words, to raise starting salaries – because £16,000 is too little to tempt good young men and women into city schools. There will be hundreds of millions to raise finishing salaries – because good teachers have to be kept in the classroom as long as they can wield a pencil. It must be possible to keep the best teachers in the classroom, without forcing them out into management in order to earn decent money. Good teachers reach the top of the main teachers' pay scale as young as 27, and that has to be absurd.

Mr Blunkett ought also to tell the review body something the teacher unions would find very hard to swallow, but surely is a necessary part of the reformation of this profession and our schools. He should say that once general levels of reward have been lifted, there ought never again to be a "general pay settlement" giving all teachers a rise indiscriminately; that in future professional rewards should be inseparably linked with performance.

In the real world, Mr Blunkett will only be able to accomplish some of this. He has to contend with the com-

plexity of schools finance, which New Labour – so far – has done nothing to simplify. A notional sum for schools, which itself contains a notional sum to meet a hypothetical teachers' pay settlement, enters the global amount in their block grant in the autumn. They may choose to spend the official proportion of their grant on schools; they may choose even to augment it. But those decisions are up to them just as heads and governors control the detail of which teacher gets what. What all this means is that David Blunkett cannot directly effect – or

lubricate – changes that ensure teachers get paid for work out of hours, such as homework and holiday clubs. Perhaps the local authorities and the heads will all sing from his song sheet, but there is no guarantee of harmony. In arguing with his Cabinet colleagues for more money Mr Blunkett's case is necessarily weakened because he cannot assure them that his aims will be achieved.

Meanwhile the Government will ask the pay review body to bear all kinds of considerations in mind. The most important of these is the creation of a new grade – an "advanced skills"

or "super" teacher. This, in principle, is exactly what is wanted: a way of paying good teachers to remain in the classroom. There is a lot of work to be done in fleshing it out, questions yet to be answered about how such pedagogical heroines and heroes are to be identified. In most schools, however, the evidence of good or bad performance is clear-cut enough to convince even the most blinkered union rep.

The quid pro quo has to be a faster track towards the removal from the schools of teachers who cannot control their charges or deliver on the attainment front. As even Chris Woodhead seems recently to have recognised, managing educational improvement in England and Wales is a subtle blend of sticks and carrots. A lot of cajoling is needed, whether or not his figure of 15,000 "bad teachers" is precisely right. But so is praise, and pay for a job subjected – now, at last – to close and critical inspection of a kind many other professionals and the occupants of a host of other less demanding jobs manage to avoid.

So it is back to money. According to the official calculations behind the £2.3m extra for education announced in Gordon Brown's July budget, around £1bn ought to be available to local authorities for improving standards. How much of this will be reserved for pay, in addition to the notional two-and-a-bit per cent that

will be entered into support grant calculations? It does not look as if the total sum available for the refreshment of teacher pay prospects and restructuring the grading system is going to be adequate. The Government wants to effect a revolution in state education, and that cannot come cheap. For David Blunkett there is going to be no cut-price route to success.

## William, use your head

Does William Hague think that he is somehow imbuing wisdom by peregrinating round the national periphery, as if political reality can be found "out there", like truth in *The X Files*? Well, how much reality there is in a Cornish theme park is a matter for debate, but there probably isn't a lot at the end of a water chute.

Still, that's not really what this is about: it is about the Tory leader getting his hitherto unknown visage recognised in local newspapers and on local television stations around the provinces. No barn in that at all – indeed, a lot to be said for it. But lay off the "baseball cap casual", William: your older voters think it's childish, and the younger ones think you look – well, not to mince words, a bit of a prat in that hat.



ONE CANADA SQUARE, CANARY WHARF, LONDON E14 5DL  
TELEPHONE 0171-293 2000 / 0171-345 2000 FAX 0171-293 3405 / 0171-345 2435

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Changing status of the Church

Sir: "The bells toll once more for the established C of E" – Donald Macintyre's article (the commentators, 1 August) is intriguing. I have just tabled what the General Synod grandly calls a Private Member's Motion for debate at the Synod (if it gets enough signatures), asking that the Church of England should get its act together on the whole question of disestablishment.

That Donald Macintyre should devote so much space to the matter adds weight to my sense that change in Church-State relationships is not only in the air but is also inevitable. Its effects will not be confined to the C of E but will touch a wide spectrum of religious organisations.

If the Church of England can meet this spirit of constitutional growth with national and comprehensive proposals, I believe that it can make a serious and worthwhile contribution to the shape of our society for years to come and that there is now an extraordinary opportunity for the established Church to fulfil its status, either by abolishing it or by radically changing it.

Either way, it will be loyal to Archbishop Temple's dictum about the Church existing for those who are not its members.

The Rev BEN HOPKINSON  
The Parishes of Stainton-in-Cleveland and Hilton-in-Cleveland  
Stainton, Middlesbrough

Sir: Regarding your recent correspondence there is a much better argument for disestablishment than the matrimonial affairs of the Prince of Wales: namely the hope of unity between the "mainline" churches in England – Anglican, Roman Catholic, Free Church – in the century that lies ahead.

If there is full sincerity in their prayers, affirmations, and conversations over the past decade and more, that is the end towards which they look, and it is hard to believe that a united Church of the future will wish to be yoked to a secularised state.

The British media have largely ignored the progress of the Ecumenical Movement, except occasionally at top level – gradual convergence being less sensational than conflict and controversy. Yet there are already more than 700 local Ecumenical partnerships in England, and plenty of evidence to suggest that denominational separation is less and less serviceable to the Christian cause.

It is true that there is no very strong pressure for disestablishment nowadays on the part of other churches. Establishment is hardly regarded as oppressive, as once it was, and loyalty and affection for the Queen extend far beyond Anglicans. And as your correspondent says (1 August), Parliament shows no great eagerness to grasp this nettle. The initiative for a first move, therefore, must lie with the Church of England itself.

There are more than 30 Provinces of the worldwide Anglican Communion that can encourage such a move by insisting that dispensing with a state connection does nothing to impede the mission of the Church.

Bishop P CRODGER  
Edinburgh



### Eliminate wars without armies

Sir: George Robertson, Secretary of State for Defence, is wrong to

assume ("Why we still need strong armed forces", 30 July) that rejecting military action implies taking no part at all in making the world a better place, and leaving the problems to others. I am

apalled that he can think of no

way other than armed combat or the threat of it ("negotiation from strength" as it is called) that might be worth considering.

During the years since 1939 there have been few, if any, periods

during which there has been no armed conflict somewhere in the world, despite enormous increases

in armed forces and advances in

weapon technology. These conflicts have sprung from disagreements

over religious political and moral

beliefs, ethnic traditions and

acquisitive ambitions. It is doubtful

that wars ever eliminate the desires

or beliefs that lead to them. Does

the defeated party ever, as a result

of defeat, decide that it was

mistaken in its belief or merely in

its estimate of the enemy's

strength?

Have any of the leaders of the

great powers ever considered

devoting some of the billions now

spent on defences to exploring

other possible long-term means of

tackling the problems Mr

Robertson has in mind? This would

not doubt involve looking far into

the future and not hoping for

"quick fixes", looking for likely

sources of aggression, poverty and

famine, relying on education,

willingness to listen to reason and

accept compromises, economic aid

and sanctions, and so on, without

even the threat of force. It would

help if those involved had no

connection with, and drew no

profits from, the manufacture and

supply of lethal weapons, since the

proliferation of arms itself creates

enemies.

I cannot take pride, as George

Robertson wishes, in my country's

skill in killing and maiming people,

usually innocent ones, destroying

cities and communications, and

devising and profiting from the

techniques for doing such things.

How can one take seriously those

who seek to eliminate or prevent

war by warlike action or respect

those who profit from the supply of

the means, unless all other

possibilities are exhausted?

PETER ALEXANDER

Farnham, Surrey

even the threat of force. It would

help if those involved had no

connection with, and drew no

profits from, the manufacture and

supply of lethal weapons, since the

proliferation of arms itself creates

enemies.

I cannot take pride, as George

Robertson wishes, in my country's

skill in killing and maiming people,

usually innocent ones, destroying

cities and communications, and

devising and profiting from the

techniques for doing such things.

How can one take seriously those

who seek to eliminate or prevent

war by warlike action or respect

those who profit from the supply of

the means, unless all other

possibilities are exhausted?

PETER ALEXANDER

Farnham, Surrey

### How to improve air quality

Sir: Research suggesting that traffic

pollution triggers 6,000 heart

attacks a year in Britain will further

compound pressure upon New

Labour to prove its "green"

credentials (5 August). One

of the last acts of the Tory

government was to publish the

UK's first National Air Quality

Strategy.

Last month the Minister for the

Environment, Michael Meacher

MP, announced an immediate re-

view of this strategy, accusing the

"last government of failing to tackle

pollution successfully despite its

"green" rhetoric".

If the present government is to

fare any better, it must take urgent

action to cut further harmful

emissions from road traffic. The

measures needed are well

understood: national traffic

reduction targets; road tax linked

to emissions for cars; tax breaks for

cleaner fuels such as gas and ultra-

low sulphur diesel; taxing private

## analysis

# A cautionary tale from down under

In the Eighties and Nineties, New Zealand led the world in the zeal of its free market reforms. David Walker, just returned, has a warning for New Labour of the political risks of such radicalism

**I** have seen the future, and it works, they said, a stream of think-tanks, consultants and MPs who in recent years have returned from New Zealand praising its "revolution in government". In London, red carpets have been unrolled for the likes of former NZ Treasury minister Sir Roger Douglas, powerhouse of the Eighties reforms. But having just returned from Wellington, I am tempted to say: I have seen the past and it doesn't work.

The sheep (much reduced in number) are still grazing the Canterbury Plain. The All Blacks last month worsted the old Aussie enemy and last week they were enjoying the fireworks in downtown Auckland; but politically speaking, New Zealand is an unhappy, edgy country. The economy is stagnant, exports flat. Old worries surface about young Kiwis leaving the country never to return. Television news leads with stories of planes dropping off planes (under-regulated) privatised airlines. Preparations for electricity privatisation are pulling the country apart – as North and South Islands fight over power supply. Crime is rising: in parts of Auckland youth gangs regularly gather to throw stones at police.

Wherever you go people talk about the "social question" – jobs, youth, provision for the elderly, ethnic disparities. Prime Minister Jim Bolger makes heart-wrenching speeches invoking the spirit of community, aka cheap ways of looking after the country's growing numbers of old people. And Sir Roger Douglas has left Labour far behind – he is now a leader of the far-right ACT (Association of Consumers and Taxpayers) party.

It does not feel much like a model. A lot has been made of the way New Zealand contracted-out services and introduced competition into its public sector – it has even gone as far as government ministers entering into contracts with their permanent secretaries to provide them with advice. But

there is no hard-and-fast evidence that services are delivered any more efficiently there than elsewhere. On the contrary: if the central measure of the effectiveness of a state is public trust in and appreciation of its government, New Zealand is a case study in failure – levels of mistrust of and outright disdain for government are at an all-time high.

This has nothing to do with sleaze. The recent revelation that a former New Zealand high commissioner had used the polished dining-room table in the Commission to consummate his sexual relations left most Kiwis amused. In fact their country consistently scores near the top of the league for lack of financial corruption.

It has to do with the compact that has to exist between government and government if the state is to be effective. New Zealand is an object lesson in committing the government of a pluralist and democratic welfare state to theorists and ideological hard-liners from the neo-liberal right wing – as if we in Britain needed one. What they do is destroy public trust in government, which is indeed one of the legacies of the era of Conservative dominance just ended in this country. New Zealand shows how, eventually, radical right-wing government is "self-defeating". "Reaganomics", as the New Zealanders christened their version of what the Americans experienced as Reaganism and we as Thatcherism, doesn't work.

Take reform of pensions and arrangements for old age, a subject close to New Labour's heart. This autumn New Zealanders are due to vote in a referendum on a government proposal for compulsory private pensions. Polls say it will be conclusively rejected. One reason

is that Kiwis actually trust state provision, especially over the long haul. They don't trust the grand promises of their right-of-centre politicians that private is necessarily better.

Moral for Blairites: make sure the people trust you before putting forward long-term pro-

grammes of financial change. New Zealand is a small country with only 3.5 million people. Unlike Australia it was settled by free men and women. Given its common heritage and parliamentary tradition, it is a place where people ought to trust

their government. Yet in the Eighties it experienced an episode of radical top-down institutional reform. But unlike that in the UK, change was powered by a Labour government responding to financial and economic crisis.

On coming to power in 1984 David Lange's administration pushed through a raft of measures breaking decisively with New Zealand's consensual past. Public spending and tariffs were cut, civil servants put on performance contracts, the central bank given operational autonomy, farm supports slashed and the NZ dollar floated. When Labour was replaced by the National Party (hitherto moderate Tories) the revolution continued. Town and county planning as we know it was abolished, social benefits were

cut. Privatisation steamed ahead, services were contracted out and a Fiscal Responsibility Act was introduced to bear down permanently on tax and spending. The NZ state now consumes 34 per cent of national product, a figure British Tories still dream of – the British state is still worth around 41 per cent.

For the neo-conservatives what New Zealand did made the country an antipodean paradise. Gurus and government ministers descended on Wellington to hail the simplest of simple propositions – cut government and all your troubles disappear. The great thing about New Zealand was that the ostensible left had also swallowed the medicine.

In retrospect a lot of what happened in New Zealand went with the flow of the Eighties, at least in Britain and the US – the

abolished, social benefits were

Continents have so far found the doctrine less appealing. Some of New Zealand's reforms were necessary and inevitable. World economic conditions in the Seventies and Eighties meant that New Zealand would have to do more than produce dairy products, wool, sheep meat and sportsmen; and one way or another it would have to sort out a public finance mess bequeathed by (National Party) Prime Minister Robert Muldoon.

What was distinctive – and odd – about New Zealand was the doctrinal certitude of the politicians and officials who carried out the changes. Here was a country priding itself on British-style pragmatism air-rendering to theory. Here was a broadly tolerant and secular nation getting true religion in a bad way.

There is no denying the politi-

cal success of the revolutionaries, led by Sir Roger Douglas and staffed by a group of civil servants in the Treasury, with outposts in Business Round-table and other lobbying organisations. Within a decade the radical right had succeeded in abolishing the New Zealand welfare state – in the face of consistent public support for its principles. Governments changed but the radical right remains in power. It is still a potent presence, now working on proposals to set up toll booths (or their electronic equivalent) on rural roads.

"Users ought to pay," they cry,

not realising or caring that New Zealand's extensive network of rural roads is what keeps the country in one piece, socially speaking.

The radicals' promise was clear: cut government and the economy would be free to soar, carrying the people into a new heaven of material prosperity where they alone would choose what to spend on their health, social security and so forth. What the revolutionaries did not add was that their version of Reaganomics would make New Zealand a much less equal society and now also a less safe one. They did not care to foresee that the reforms would create a new class of high-rolling consultants and business executives for whom greed was good and some of the most attractive features of the pastoral, egalitarian society would be lost forever.

In the early Nineties, the promise of material prosperity looked as if it were being realised. Economic growth soared as New Zealand adapted to new patterns of trade with Japan and other Asian neighbours. The exchange rate fell, encouraging exports. But now the boom is over and only a true believer would claim the New Zealand economy has been left in permanently fine fettle. Inflation has been brought down, but that is a common or garden

achievement these days. The trick is to match low inflation and jobs and growth, and New Zealand has nothing to teach us or anyone else here.

Meanwhile, New Zealand politics and society are in a mess. Anxious about Opposition pledges on proportional representation, Prime Minister Jim Bolger committed the National Party to a referendum on PR: the country said yes and the first elections on the new franchise were held last autumn. The result was a coalition between National and a new party, New Zealand First, a mixture of Maori representatives and "none of the above". Six months on, the coalition is in the dumps. New Zealand First's rating is negligible and polls show voters want yet another referendum, this time to reject PR and restore first past the post.

**K**iwis have not lost their stolidity – such volatility needs an explanation. The most obvious is that people feel betrayed by governments that have pushed change too far and too fast. People said to me we voted Labour in the Eighties and we got right-wing radicalism; we voted conservative in the Nineties and we got right-wing radicalism: something is wrong with the political system.

What the public wants more than anything is a long period of pragmatic administration: no more shocks, no more experiments – but a lot more social spending and a lot less of the cynicism that recently prompted Prime Minister Bolger to say he would rather give that \$500 to the city mission than his own social welfare department.

Sir Roger Douglas used to argue in the patronising way of Thatcherites that consensus would develop after the hard decisions had delivered growth, prosperity and lower taxes. But there's been little growth lately and even less consensus. The neo-liberals in New Zealand have failed.

People want to recover social solidarity and mutual concern. Tony Blair and colleagues do not have to travel to the other side of the globe to take on the lesson – it was surely one of the principal reasons why people voted for them on May 1.



### Notice to customers

## New interest rates for existing mortgage customers.

With effect from 8 August 1997 the interest rates for existing mortgage customers are increased by 0.25% to:

	New interest rate % p.a.	APR%
Home Loan Rate	8.20	8.5
Home Improvement Loan Rate Loans sanctioned before 26.4.89	10.20	10.5
House Mortgage Rate	8.20	8.4

Credit arrangements will be varied accordingly

Midland Bank plc, 27-32 Poultry, London EC2P 2BX.

Member HSBC Group

## Talk about sex? Please, don't tempt me

**S**o far it hasn't been easy for me to follow the Family Planning Association's weekend injunction to talk about sex at least once a day. My partner is at her mother's (no, things are fine, thank you), and I don't really like to go up to complete strangers, to neighbours, or to people at work and begin to tell them about my sexual fantasies. I suppose some might regard it as an interesting form of revenge upon over-garrulous taxi drivers, to return their thoughts on the new government with an alarming disquisition on the quality of the male orgasm. One might certainly get to one's destination more quickly.

The other problem – which is less practical but more important – is that I'm not at all sure it's a good idea anyway. Not for the reasons that Ann Widdecombe gave on radio the other day: Ms Widdecombe feels that there is too much sex around, and I on the whole believe the opposite. But the orthodoxy that couples should – as far as possible – be honest with one another and discuss their sexual

feelings openly, that strikes me as being completely wrong-headed.

Couples, on the whole, know what they want to know. Most women, for instance, cannot cope with the idea that a man has a sexual past. They do not want to be told about past girlfriends, or first masturbation, or how a bloke lost his virginity. The image of the loved one that they have constructed in their own heads is the one that they wish to persist with; they do not want it hurled out by a series of invading, contrary pictures. Men, on the other hand, often want at first to colonise their lovers' posts – with the objective of turning them into versions of the Whig Version of History – a clear progression from barbarism and dissatisfaction, to enlightenment and incredible pleasure. Women often co-operate with this process, airbrushing past lovers out of the picture with almost Stalinist clarity.

But if history is dangerous, it is nothing compared with the present. Men are simply much badder than women realise. Does a wife really want to be told that – though he doesn't want to hear it

about them. Generally the two of them can rub along together – literally – doing what pleases and minding their own businesses. They have discovered what works and what doesn't, and that is the great and glorious characteristic of long-term partnerships.

The desirability of this ambiguity was brought home to me this week when reading a story in one of the less cerebral of our newspapers, concerning a 27-year-old woman who has Sliders Phenomenon. Debbie Wolf gives off large quantities of static electricity. Ever since she was 12, people who shake her hand or cuddle her have got minor shocks. TV channels sometimes change when she enters a room, car indicators and street lamps flash on and off at her approach. But, according to Debbie, the most remarkable aspect of her condition is that, when she is sexually excited, her effect on electrical appliances around her becomes almost dangerous. Fridges turn on and off and light bulbs explode.

Now, you can fake orgasm, whether you're male or

female, but you cannot fake an exploding fridge. Debbie Wolf is unable to dissemble – placing a voltmeter by the bed will give a precise measurement of her response to practically anything sexual. Sliders means that when she passes men she fancies, or her lover does something that she doesn't like so much, her feelings become instantly apparent.

Consider for a moment how disastrous it would be if this happened to you, right now. It would be like establishing a running commentary on your sexual feelings. Every pertness you passed would be registered, as though you were continually telling your partner, "Look at her!" or even, "Look at the huns on him!" Your temporary lack of interest while you did something that your partner really liked, but that wasn't such a turn-on for you, would be instantly revealed. The gateway between the absolutely private, and the admitted, would stand always ajar. I cannot think of any surer recipe for divorce.

Miles Kington is on holiday



**David Aarons**

his husband loves her dearly – he is in a state of hormonal agitation all summer because of pert young breasts pushed against flimsy blouses, or nipples outlined in tank-tops, or bare midriffs – the line of the navel leading the eye steadily down ... Oh dear. Sorry about that. The fact that it gets worse as the man gets older simply makes it all the more pathetic.

So, his fantasies, she can do without. And if she has any it is – as an old friend of mine used to say – Lombard Street to a china orange that he doesn't want to hear

about them. Generally the two of them can rub along together – literally – doing what pleases and minding their own businesses. They have discovered what works and what doesn't, and that is the great and glorious characteristic of long-term partnerships.

The desirability of this ambiguity was brought home to me this week when reading a story in one of the less cerebral of our newspapers, concerning a 27-year-old woman who has Sliders Phenomenon. Debbie Wolf gives off large quantities of static electricity. Ever since she was 12, people who shake her hand or cuddle her have got minor shocks. TV channels sometimes change when she enters a room, car indicators and street lamps flash on and off at her approach. But, according to Debbie, the most remarkable aspect of her condition is that, when she is sexually excited, her effect on electrical appliances around her becomes almost dangerous. Fridges turn on and off and light bulbs explode.

Now, you can fake orgasm, whether you're male or

Miles Kington is on holiday

هذا من الأصل

# Why the Internet means a bright future for our cities

**A**t last, our cities are starting to get the recognition they deserve. London and a few others will get an elected mayor - not much of a gesture towards the importance of one of the great powerhouses of the world economy, but a start.

The overcentralisation of government means that Britain has far fewer cities than most other countries of the same size. The great, fat toad of Whitehall bureaucracy, whose powers grew even more bloated during the Conservative years even as it spat out surplus civil servants, inhibited the vigour of urban centres outside London and kept the capital itself from realising its full potential.

Now, though, there is a great opportunity for political decentralisation to coincide with deep economic trends in opening up the possibility of an urban renaissance. We stand at the threshold of a new era of city brilliance for the first time since the end of last century, when the very names of London, Liverpool and Glasgow conjured up images of glamour, wealth, excitement and exoticism.

Economic growth has always been essentially urban. The national romantic obsession with the countryside obscures this truth, but the country is a parasite on urban wealth. About four-fifths of us live and work in cities and suburbs. And the number of cranes on the metropolitan skyline is probably one of the best indicators of the nation's economic growth.

The reason for fresh optimism is the slow but enormous impact of new computer and communications technologies on the economy. On the face of it there is a paradox here. Why should particular places become more important at a time when you might think the new technology is making location irrelevant? After all, there are tales *ad nauseam* about happy telecommuters working from their country cottages. What's more, modern telecommunications are allowing big companies to relocate staff away from expensive cities to cheaper small towns.

But this modern myth of rural renewal assumes that telecommunications and computers are only a substitute for face-to-face contact. In fact, they complement it and make it easier. The Internet makes it possible for two people on opposite sides of the planet to make each other's acquaintance. And what do they do? They visit each other for holidays and they even get married. They would not have known of each other's existence without new technology, and here they are choosing curtains together.

And, after all, the icon of the computer industry, Silicon Valley, is all in one place. Silicon Valley has the easiest access to the latest and best in information technology, yet its computer nerds all hang out together near LA rather than dispersing with laptop and modem to the world's best beaches. As Edward Glaeser, a professor at Harvard University, puts it: "This agglomeration probably occurs because the industry relies so heavily on interaction and has so much knowledge to be transferred across firms and individuals."

At the same time, the cutting-edge industries in modern economies are making personal interaction more and more valuable. The hits



**Deep economic trends are creating the possibility of an urban renaissance. We stand at the threshold of a new era of city brilliance**

of modern economies are expanding the fastest and producing the most wealth - as Tony Blair reognised with his Number 10 party guest list - include the hits many people still see as frivolous. Financial services, accountancy and the like are important, certainly, and we have a national advantage in those. But so are movies, music, multimedia, fashion, design, software and video games - anything involving creativity. These are the engines of our future wealth and prosperity. Creativity thrives on other people, on the exchange of ideas, on the buzz parties on fads and fashions.

It can be hard to get across the point that Britain is more important for the future of our economy than British Steel. Old-fashioned manufacturing exercises a tyranny over the national imagination and is probably fated to arouse more passion than its actual importance warrants.

The fact remains that the really important industries of the future, which all depend on new technology for their creation and distribution, will make people congregate in the big cities more than ever. The pubs of Soho, the clubs of Manchester, will be the equivalent of the dockside taverns in London and Glasgow a century ago. They will be places where the new wealth-creators, like their merchant forebears, go to gossip, exchange ideas or find new jobs.

The economic revival of cities will launch a virtuous circle, too. The presence of people - especially if they are making a lot of money - creates a demand for more and more people to provide services, whether retailing and restaurants or cleaners and security guards. There are clear signs of this in London. The fastest-growing areas of employment during the current boom have been in precisely these areas. There are staff shortages in central London, unsatisfied even by the constant inflow of young foreigners.

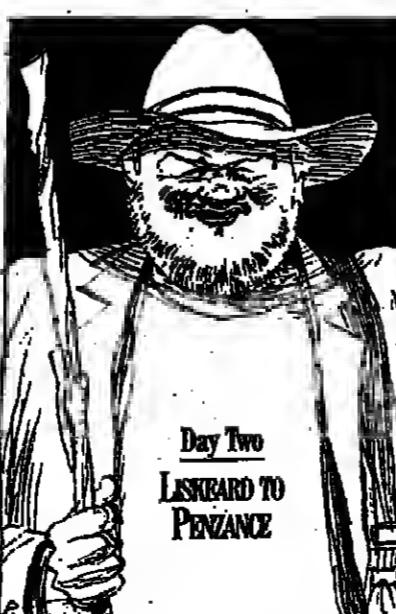
The new economy is going to be more urban than ever, and we are lucky in Britain to have centres of creativity such as London and Manchester, Oxford and Cambridge for science, software and education, and - with luck - Edinburgh as well which could join the premier league once it gets its parliament. But past centralisation means the UK has too few cities.

In most developed countries there is a rule of thumb that the number of cities with a population above a certain size is proportionate to the population level. Thus although the US has nine cities with above four million inhabitants, it also has 20 with more than two million, and 40 cities with more than a million. This pattern is repeated in Germany, Italy and Japan. The UK, in fact, is one of only two for which the rule breaks down. France, overshadowed by Paris and its serried ranks of technocrats, is the other.

Allowing London and a few other big cities to elect their own mayor is only a start. With any luck, it is a symbol of the Government's honourable intention to devolve power. For local politicians will have a better idea of what their thriving local industries need than Whitehall bureaucrats hunching with lobbyists for the big manufacturers before heading home on the 1945 to Esher.

# The traveller enters a lost kingdom

## A JOURNEY AROUND THE WHOLE ISLAND OF GREAT BRITAIN



WITH PAUL VALLEY

**T**he blind at the window of the sleeper clattered shut to reveal that the train was crossing the Tamar. The broad river, silvery in the dawn light, is the oldest frontier in Europe - its eastern bourn having been declared by Athelstan in the 9th century to be the border between England and Cornwall.

The crossing appeared to work its magic on the Great Western steward, a young woman named Margaret who had seemed brisk and efficient when the train left London the night before but who had now become friendly and forthcoming. She leaned out of the window after I stepped from the train at Liskeard and smiled. "It's a different country here - slower and more relaxed."

Indeed it was. I was on my fourth mug of tea in the tiny station buffet when Paul Naylor arrived. The diminutive figure, with wild hair and a curly beard, gave every appearance of having just leapt out of bed. For all that he launched straight into an instant history of the Duchy of Cornwall and the succession it has maintained, technically independent of the British monarchy.

Naylor, the owner of a local vineyard who stood for parliament in the general election for the Sons of Cornwall party, Mebyon Kernow, continued the history lesson as we toured the ancient Cornish sites of the area in his battered Volvo. It spluttered and wheezed, but from its radio aerial there proudly fluttered a black pennant with a white cross, the flag of St Piran, patron saint of Cornwall.

There are more miles of winding country lanes in Cornwall than anywhere else in Britain, he explained as we tramped across the rough wet

grass of Fowey Moor, because the distinctive settlement patterns of the Celts had survived, along with their place-names. The culture was the island's most antique: Celts had sacked Delphi in 400 BC and Rome in 300 BC. The Galatians, to whom St Paul epistles, spoke Celtic until the 4th century AD. With delight he pointed out the mistakes in the official signs at the monument of the 9th century king, Dunbarth, and gloated over how the "English" Heritage symbol had been obliterated by Cornish nationalists from many of the historical sites. "The English are like dogs," he said.

"They go round pissin' on everything." There was a saucy turn to all his aphorisms. The day before he had been "popping in and out of the house like a fart in a colander". His sense of disbelief was conveyed with, "If that's true then my cock's a bloater."

That sense of incredulity was exercised most forcefully on Tony Blair's notion of what constitutes devolution within the UK. For devolutionary purposes Cornwall has been lumped in with Devon and various points east as far as Swindon. It is to be administered from Bristol, which is farther from Cornwall than you might think. "Bristol's nearer to Dover than it is to Land's End. We need a separate Cornish Development Agency," said Colin Lewy, a nationalist councillor on both the district and county councils.

There are some serious economic issues here. "The GDP of Cornwall is less than three-quarters of the UK average. We have more in common with Merseyside than a wealthy place like Torbay in Devon. Our economy is almost colonial: so much

# Can our squaddies ever be kept in line?

by Christopher Bellamy



Justin Fowler, left, and Jeff Parnell, of the Royal Green Jackets; they were later convicted of the murder of a Danish tour guide, Louise Jensen, in Cyprus

**The kind of discipline needed for a 21st century army might be closer to a medieval order of warrior monks**

**L**ight Infantry in Episkopi and the King's Regiment in Dhekelia - are nothing to do with the UN force which separates the Greek and Turkish Cypriot communities. They are there to defend the Sovereign Base areas, and to operate and defend the airfield at Akrotiri. A member of a Greek Cypriot family who was in Cyprus recently summarised the local view. "I don't think they do anything. They just act as firemen - because it's so hot and there are lots of bush fires. There's a lot of resentment between them and the Greek Cypriots - they're just there to start trouble. They walk around like they own the place."

The two British battalions - currently 1st Battalion, The

opposed to the UN presence, and would not mind very much if the British left, especially as they are bad for tourism. The Army says the incidence of bad behaviour involving troops in Cyprus is no worse than anywhere else, and far less than among the same group of young men - 18- to 25-year-olds, by and large of the same class - in the rest of society. Fights between soldiers and civilians may involve an element of provocation. For British men on holiday, taking on British soldiers may be perceived as a manly thing to do. It is certainly a risky one. Drink has a lot to do with the problem, just as it does in civilian life. In Bosnia, where soldiers are on active service, they are

limited to two cans of beer a night, and there are very few problems. But none of these statistics will satisfy the public. The problem is that people expect the forces to live up to their advertising, and to be better than the rest of society: in some cases, even, to turn the other cheek.

Soldiers have always been a rough lot, and have always liked a drink. Wellington was fond

of calling his soldiers "the scum of the earth". He knew them well. "The British soldiers are fellows who have all enlisted for drink - that is the plain fact," he wrote. "I don't know what effect these men will have on the enemy, but, by God, they frighten me." It is a sentiment felt by many officers ever since - including myself, as a 19-year-old second lieutenant in charge of a dozen Royal Artillerymen arriving in a one-horse town in the Rocky mountains, hundreds of miles from my unit. (The boys wanted to get down to some serious partying in the local saloon and I, terrified of them and of losing control, was forced to acquiesce.)

The armies of earlier times, and their fondness for drink, were controlled by a discipline that was ferocious, arbitrary, and sometimes unjust. But it was effective. Soldiers were treated like robots, to be turned against the enemy, and were kept out of normal society when not in use.

The problem now is that the Army has to treat its soldiers like grown-ups. The law, both national and European, demands it. By and large, they behave like grown-ups. In a few cases they do not, and those are the cases that make the headlines. There are increasing opportunities for women in the forces, and legal pressures to try to increase recruitment of ethnic minorities. But while the Army is trying to do that, it lacks the old disciplinary mechanisms to enforce its new political correctness. If a racist attack on a fellow soldier or beating up a civilian was punishable by flogging, such attacks would probably cease. But that sanction is not available. Nor can the professional, well-qualified soldiers the Army wants be locked up like criminals.

The soldier of the new world order will have to be a different animal, and the transformation is not complete. The kind of discipline needed for a 21st century army, combining weapons of awesome power with conducting diplomacy and tending the sick might be closer to a medieval order of warrior monks. Our society might find that even more threatening - with some reason. And is that what we want? As General Sir John Hackett pointed out in his 1983 book *The Profession of Arms*, "What a society gets in its armed forces is exactly what it asks for, no more, no less. What it asks for tends to be a reflection of what it is. The mirror is a true one, and the face it will see will be its own."

**YOUR PENSION: IN YOUR OWN TIME, IN YOUR OWN WAY.**

*A Merchant Investors pension is an easy, convenient and flexible pension.*

*The charges are low.*

*You can vary your contributions without charge.*

*Pay no commission when you buy direct.*

*No sales person will bother you.*

**Merchant Investors**

**Assurance**

*Regulated by the Personal Investment Authority and part of Allianz - one of Europe's largest insurers.*

*Mail this coupon to: Merchant Investors Assurance Company Limited, Freepost BS 603, Bristol BS1 2LZ. MR. MRS. MISS / S45 (please circle as appropriate)*

**INITIALS**

**SURNAME**

**ADDRESS**

**POSTCODE**

**CALL NOW ON  
0800 374857  
FOR A BROCHURE**

*ARE YOU EMPLOYED OR SELF EMPLOYED? (please circle)  
IF EMPLOYED, are you in your company pension scheme?  
YES OR NO (please circle)*

**1 IND 88/97**





COMMENT

The committee started from the premise that good corporate governance is all about adopting broad principles and then applying them flexibly and with common sense to individual circumstances. Over 140 written submissions and 200 discussions later it never really gets very much further.

Over 140 written submissions and 200 discussions later it never really gets very much further.

Mercury Asset Management has a simple, effective rule when it comes to rooting out rotten management. It votes in favour of the board at the annual meeting and then, when its patience runs out, it sells all its shares. The effect is to concentrate executive minds wonderfully and in the way that a thousand Cudbury committees could never manage.

Perhaps Sir Ronnie Hampel had this form of summary justice in mind when his corporate governance handwaggon rolled into town yesterday, firing a mixture of blanks and bland truisms.

Sir Ronnie is correct that no amount of box-ticking can ever eradicate the lazy, unscrupulous or just plain bent. All of which makes endless lists of prescriptive rules something to comply with on paper and then promptly ignore in practice.

But he is even more accurate in his candid reflection that the Hampel Committee on Corporate Governance might never have been necessary.

Reading through the 40-odd pages of its preliminary report it is easy to see in his point of view. Sir Richard Greenbury, who was the last man at the controls, advised Ronnie not to accept the job and he didn't let him down. For once the advance publicity was no exaggeration.

The committee started from the premise that good corporate governance is all about adopting broad principles and then applying them flexibly and with common sense to

individual circumstances. Over 140 written submissions and 200 discussions later it never really gets very much further. The list of 50 conclusions and recommendations boils down to the incontrovertible and uncontroversial conclusion that businesses are better run when equipped with informed, independent-minded and qualified directors, shareholders and auditors.

Small wonder that the plaudits flowed in thick and fast from a grateful business community confronted with nothing more exacting than the odd recommendation on the correct proportion of non-execs a board should sport and handy tips for good-housekeeping at the agm.

Of course, it is not just businessmen who will be relieved. The last thing New Labour wanted was a report that actually required it to legislate. Corporate profligacy was a perfect stick with which to beat the Tories while in opposition. In office it quickly becomes a minefield into which only the barmy should venture. Remember what happened to Ken Clarke when he tried to scrap tax breaks on share options for Asda check-out staff?

The lesson has not been lost on Labour. Suddenly it has a list of better things to do than forcing companies to obtain shareholder approval for executive pay packages.

Sir Ronnie has wisely not left any hostages to fortune. Recommendation 51 does not appear in Sir Ronnie's report but what it says is that his committee should be the last

committee on corporate governance. That is one box everyone will tick.

No fairytale ending in sight for NatWest

If Rip Van Winkle had woken up yesterday he might have been forgiven for asking what all the fuss was about. Profits of £775m, a 10 per cent rise in the dividend and a return on capital in its core high street bank that many companies would die for – it is not on the face of it a case study in crisis management.

Such NatWest is living in a fairytale land but a nightmare, largely of the bank's own creation. Analysts left their meeting long-faced yesterday, the shares tumbled and the speculation over the group's future and those of its senior managers can only intensify. There are plainly operational problems, but most alarmingly there appears to have been a massive loss of collective nerve at the top which yesterday's ringing declaration of independence has done nothing to redress.

NatWest runs a highly profitable retail and commercial bank but one facing increasing competitive pressures from new entrants. Revenue increases will be hard to find. It also has an investment bank uncomfortably squeezed between the giant American full-service operations and the niche players at home. The costs of buying into the big time have been horrendous, the returns so far insignificant.

The investment banking division has shelled out £1bn in the past 18 months on acquisitions and seen its cost base rise from an annualised £800m to £1.2bn. In the first six months of the year its operating income rose by just £30m. That imbalance means investment banking earned a paltry 2.4 per cent on the capital it employs – in the same period Lloyds TSB earned 40 per cent.

That is an unhappy state of affairs, but it is not the biggest problem facing NatWest. The gravest threat to the group's independence is its lack of confidence in its ability to remain so or its desire to stay that way. In that context, Derek Wanless and Lord Alexander were foolish in sit down with Abbey National and the Pru. Knowing it was so firmly under the spotlight after dropping £90m on an arcane options contract and sacking its investment chief, it was naive to believe those discussions would not leak.

Declarations of independence ring hollow when they only appear to have been made because there is no other offer on the table. If NatWest is to persuade the City it has set its true course, it may need other hands on the tiller.

GEC backs drugs tsar to inject some fizz

The markets have been kinder to John Mayo than George Simpson. When the new managing director of GEC produced his blueprint for change the share price

promptly fell. Yesterday it ticked up after GEC announced that the finance director of Zeneca has been brought on board to help execute the plan.

The youthful Mr Mayo (he is still only 42) has apparently been hired because of his reputation for corporate activity. This must refer to Mr Mayo's life before he became the drug company's finance director because, while he has presided over a positively mind-expanding rise in the share price, bids and deals have been thin on the ground over the last five years.

What Mr Mayo, then a corporate financier with Warburgs, did help engineer, however, was the demerger of ICI in 1993, after being drafted in to defend the group from the attentions of Lord Hanson.

He has presumably been brought on board to help GEC do the splits in the form of a separate listing for its jointly owned engineering business GEC Alsthom, provided the French agree to play ball and take the cash for their half of the business.

That will prove the easy bit in the grand scheme of things. The toughest nut to crack remains the task of finding partners for the defence electronics business GEC Marconi in a world ripe with national chauvinism and monopoly complications. Mr Mayo has demonstrated his ability to cut a company in half but his real test will lie in growing Marconi in size. Even after yesterday's rise, the shares are still below their level before Mr Simpson's blueprint emerged.

IN BRIEF

BA passenger numbers fall after strike

British Airways lost as much as 10 per cent of its passenger traffic as a result of the three day strike by cabin staff last month and its knock-on effects, including higher cabin crew sickness rates which lasted longer than expected. The number of passengers carried in July was 2.97 million, down 4.6 per cent on July 1997, although the totals for the first six months of the year had been 5.4 per cent up on the first half of last year. Flights inside the UK and to Europe were the worst affected, with numbers down 6 per cent on July 1996 at 1.94 million.

Chesterton warning sends shares diving

Chesterton International shares plunged from 57p to 53.5p after the property consultancy group warned that results for the year ended June 1997 would fall substantially below market expectations and may even end up in the red. A final dividend is unlikely. Michael Holmes, the newly appointed chief executive, said: "The outturn for the year has been influenced by disappointing final-quarter trading in some areas relative to forecasts, certain one-off costs and the adoption of more prudent accounting policies."

UBS announces 67% surge in profits

Union Bank of Switzerland, the country's biggest bank, announced a 67 per cent surge in first half net profits to a record 1.86bn Swiss francs (£1.47bn) despite net trading profits and a 20 per cent rise in costs. UBS said it was keen to expand its asset management activities outside Switzerland, sparking speculation that it would move on a fund manager in London, where it already owns PDFM.

Cantab reports first ever profits

Cantab Pharmaceuticals reported its first ever pre-tax profit of £1.9m for the six months to end-June, compared with a loss of £3.69m. Jurk Sikorski, chief executive, said the group was in a strong position, with all programmes moving ahead, a sizeable cash balance and anticipated further growth and expansion following the establishment of a new facility to provide resources to build critical mass and enter the next stage in development.

Dai-ichi cuts directors' pay

Dai-ichi Kangyo Bank has decided to cut the remuneration of all 32 directors, including its president, Katsuyuki Sugita, with effect from last month. The move follows the imposition by the Ministry of Finance of penalties on the company for its involvement with *sakata* racketeers. The *Nihon Keizai* newspaper evening edition in Tokyo reported that Mr Sugita's remuneration was to be cut by 60 per cent, with a 45 per cent cut for vice president, Takasuke Kaneko.

Brixton to buy Kingsland Business Park

Brixton Estate has agreed to acquire the freehold of Kingsland Business Park, Basingstoke from Standard Life for £43m cash, excluding costs. The park is a 49-acre site, consisting of about 720,000 sq ft of industrial, warehouse and office space and seven acres of land available for immediate development. The estate rejoins Brixton's 113,000 sq ft Gastons Wood Estate. Following this acquisition, Brixton's UK industrial portfolio increases to over £490m, representing 60 per cent of its total UK portfolio. Kingsland generates a rental income of £3.4m a year, reflecting an initial yield on the let investment properties of 8.3 per cent.

T&N sells Tenmat for £18m

T&N has sold its Tenmat high performance engineering composites and ceramics businesses for £18.1m cash, dependent upon asset valuation at completion, to a management team led by Tony Moore, managing director of Tenmat. The proceeds will go into a fund for future asbestos-related disease claims. In 1996 Tenmat made a pre-tax profit of £3.2m on sales of £18.5m. Pre-tax profit on the sale is expected to be £5m after goodwill of £2.4m and expenses.

Derby County raises £10m

Derby County, owner of the Premier League football club, has raised £10m from *Electra Fleming* as a step towards a stock market listing within the next three years. The funding consists of £5m of preference shares and £5m of ordinary shares for a 25 per cent stake.

## GEC restructuring gains impetus as Mayo joins board

Michael Harrison



John Mayo: Likely to bring new urgency to disposal

The restructuring of GEC took a big step forward yesterday after the defence electronics, telecoms and engineering group appointed one of the architects of the ICI demerger as its new finance director.

John Mayo, finance director with the pharmaceuticals giant, Zeneca, will join GEC on 1 October to work alongside managing director George Simpson on the overhaul of the group.

His appointment heightens expectations that GEC will push ahead with plans to demerger the power engineering and rail joint venture, Alcatel Alsthom, first unveiled last month.

But Mr Mayo, 42, is also expected to bring a new urgency to the disposal of GEC's unwanted businesses, such as the semiconductor division, while pressing ahead with the strategy of seeking partners for GEC Marconi in defence markets.

Mr Mayo was a senior corporate financier with the investment bank SBC Warburg which defended ICI against Hanson. He went on to join the ICI chairman, Sir Denys Henderson, on its demerger in 1992 before joining Zeneca, the demerged drugs arm.

Mr Simpson yesterday paid tribute to him as one of the

group's best finance directors. "His experience and capabilities much fit the nature of the task at GEC. He is strong on corporate activity and that is exactly what we need if we are to make progress."

His appointment in place of David Newlands, who left as finance director last month, takes the boardroom overhaul of GEC a key stage further. It will be completed in the first quarter of next year when the group appoints a non-executive chairman to take over from Conservative cabinet minister.

GEC has asked a well-known industrialist to take on the chairmanship but is baying difficulty negotiating terms for his departure from his existing

People & Business, page 18

Stena Line ships out of Harwich port and nets £72m



Stena Line, the Swedish ferry operator, yesterday sold Harwich International Port (above) for £72m to a new company financed by HSBC Private Equity

Bo Lerenius, Stena Line's managing director, said: "We have been offered an attractive price and are selling Harwich because our main business is shipping, not ports." Stena Line said it would use the port as a customer.

## BAA sets up £102m windfall provision

Chris Godsmark

## BP fans strike it rich with share buy-back

meeting in May, BP declined to speculate on the value of the buy-backs, though analysts suggested they could top £1bn in the first year.

BP said it would also buy back a further £300m worth of shares ahead of the agm, for use in its employee share ownership schemes. Previously such schemes have involved issuing new shares.

Though directors had been considering buy-backs since 1995, BP's hand was forced by the removal of tax credits in last month's Budget. The group said the take-up of dividends paid in the form of shares had doubled since the announcement.

The buy-backs are expected to take place in stages after the company seeks approval for the move at its next annual

meeting, because these were paid in gross form to all shareholders. The demand for share dividends threatened to double the number of new shares issued each year to 2 per cent.

At the same time yesterday's results showed a further £1.3bn (£799m) reduction in BP's debts to £6.1bn, well below the company's target of between £7.7bn and £8.8bn. Debts, which are mainly dollar-denominated, have fallen progressively from more than \$15bn in 1992, when the company faced serious financial problems.

John Browne, chief executive, coupled the buy-back announcement with BP's first

public attack on other Budget tax changes, which hit companies that earn substantial profits abroad. He said the uncertainty left by the removal of foreign income deferrals was "regrettable" because it threatens to make Britain less attractive as a place in which to do business".

Mr Browne said that he welcomed the Treasury's commitment to look again at the legislation in next spring's Budget, to ensure companies like BP would not be disadvantaged.

Profits before exceptional items rose by 21 per cent in the first six months of the year, to

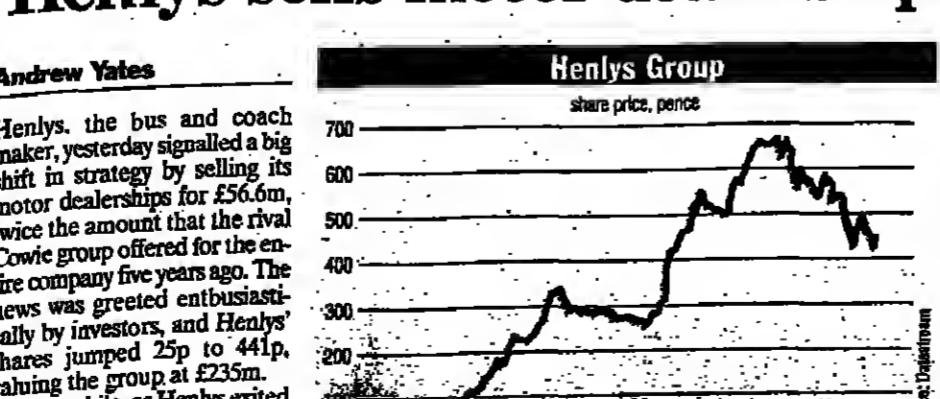
£2.437bn. The rise in sterling terms was a more modest 17 per cent, reflecting the strength of the UK currency, to £1.495bn. BP increased its dividend by 0.25p to 3.5p for the second quarter of the year, taking the half-yearly payout to 10.75p a share.

Exploration and production profits rose from £1.49bn to £1.6bn, despite a drop in average oil prices during the first half of the year by \$1 a barrel, to \$19 a barrel. Refining and marketing businesses also turned in a strong performance with profits of £486m, up from £365m the previous year.

Investment column, page 18

## Henlys sells motor dealerships for £57m

Andrew Yates



We were not making anything like the return from the bus and coach business. We listened to our shareholders and decided to withdraw from the sector."

Robert Wood, Henlys' chief executive, said yesterday: "We were at a crossroads. Car dealership is a low-margin business and

earnings. But last year it accounted for only a fifth of profits and its growth rate has fallen way behind the bus division. Henlys has cashed in on the surge in orders for new buses from the likes of Stagecoach, First Bus – and Cowie."

Cowie plans to fund its expansion by raising £17.6m via a one-for-three rights issue.

## Sears Financial Services Limited

### Notice of change of interest rate

With effect from 6th September 1997, the rate of interest on Selfridges SearsCard accounts will be:

Paying by all methods  
2.05% per month – 27.6 APR (variable)



Sears Financial Services Limited, Radcliffe House, Blenheim Court, Solihull B91 2AA. Tel: 0990 910 000

## business

## BP still on course to exceed targets

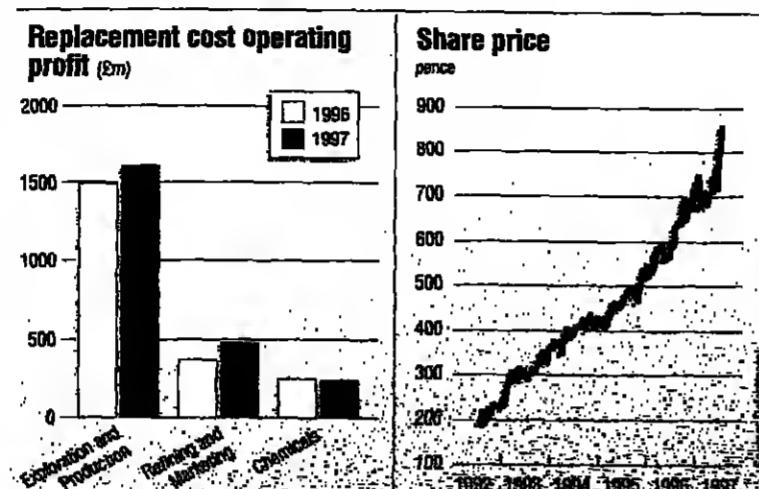
## THE INVESTMENT COLUMN

EDITED BY MAGNUS GRIMOND

## British Petroleum: At a glance

Market value: £49.0bn, share price 861.5p +39.5p

Trading record	1994	1995	1996	1996	1997
	Full year			Half year	
Turnover (£bn)	33.1	35.1	44.7	20.7	22.8
Net profits (£bn)	1.59	1.12	2.56	1.34	1.17
Earnings per share (pence)	26.8	20.2	45.5	22.8	29.5
Dividends per share (pence)	10.5	15.25	19.5	9.25	10.75



to beat expectations, and the full-year dividend to go from 19.5p to around 22.5p.

Even on a forward price-earnings ratio in the high teens, the shares are still a buy.

## Smiths bids for Graseby

**K**eth Butler-Wheathouse yesterday marked his arrival at the helm of Smiths Industries with the group's first bid for a quoted company for as long as anyone can remember. But while the agreed £136m offer for Graseby may break new ground, it is very much in the Smiths' mould. Graseby's medical defence equipment businesses should neatly bolt on to existing businesses in a similar fashion to most of the more than £500m of acquisitions Smiths has made over the past five years.

It is also unlikely to be the last or the most spectacular move to be made by Mr Butler-Wheathouse, who took over as chief executive from Sir Roger Hunt in November. Smiths has already

indicated it has up to £400m to spend on acquisitions and is ready to approach shareholders if it needs more. A £1bn bid for BOC's Ohmeda medical gases and disposables products business, recently put up for sale, could still be in the offing.

That is not to belittle yesterday's deal, brokered by Robert Fleming, the City merchant bank. Even at 211p a share, a 41 per cent premium to Graseby's pre-bid price, the deal should be sustainable.

Analysts believe Mayflower's gearing will fall swiftly over the next few years and it could afford a sizeable acquisition, probably within the aerospace industry. Mayflower has recently moved into this area, teaming up with British Aerospace to help design the Nimrod and the new Eurofighter.

Prospects also look rosy at bus manufacturing subsidiary, Walter Alexander. Profits there rose by 48 per cent to £3.7m. It is expanding rapidly in the Far East and has won a contract in Sweden to provide new buses for Stagecoach.

House broker BZW forecasts current year profits of £34m, putting the shares up 3.5p to 153p, on a prospective p/e ratio of 15. Mayflower's shares have motored upwards in the last few years, rising from just 22p in 1993, but they should remain in the fast lane for some time yet. Good value.

Interim results from Graseby showing underlying pre-tax profits up 11 per cent to £4.2m suggest that things are going in the right direction. The bid will

be a bitter pill for John Hawkins, who only arrived as chief executive in May, but having seen the share price go nowhere for the past five years, shareholders would be well advised to follow the holders of 27 per cent of the shares who have already backed the offer. However, Smiths' up 9p at 804.5p, looks high enough on a forward p/e above 19, assuming profits of £185 to £190m in the year just ended.

## Mayflower finds fast-track growth

**C**ar parts makers are generally having a tough time at the moment, with manufacturers putting a squeeze on margins in an attempt to cut costs. But Mayflower is a component manufacturer with a difference. It has carved out a lucrative niche developing and designing car bodies and its profits are blossoming.

Manufacturers are looking to sell an ever more diverse range of cars of different designs and styles to attract customers. To do so they are outsourcing more work to suppliers such as Mayflower who have the flexibility and expertise to create these new models.

Mayflower's pre-tax profits for the six months to June rose 58 per cent to £1.6m, mostly thanks to a maiden contribution from last year's US acquisition SCSM. That said, underlying operating profits still rose an impressive 22 per cent.

Within that, European profits rose by nearly a fifth to £6.9m, despite a temporary dip in sales. US profits jumped from £2.2m to £7.7m and the expected surge in sales of a new Mercedes-Benz M Class sports car should help earnings further this year.

It also has a wealth of new orders in the pipeline. It has recently won contracts with Ford and a Brazilian truck manufacturer to produce new truck bodies. And more acquisitions are on the cards. Analysts believe Mayflower's gearing will fall swiftly over the next few years and it could afford a sizeable acquisition, probably within the aerospace industry. Mayflower has recently moved into this area, teaming up with British Aerospace to help design the Nimrod and the new Eurofighter.

Prospects also look rosy at bus manufacturing subsidiary, Walter Alexander. Profits there rose by 48 per cent to £3.7m. It is expanding rapidly in the Far East and has won a contract in Sweden to provide new buses for Stagecoach.

House broker BZW forecasts current year profits of £34m, putting the shares up 3.5p to 153p, on a prospective p/e ratio of 15. Mayflower's shares have motored upwards in the last few years, rising from just 22p in 1993, but they should remain in the fast lane for some time yet. Good value.

Interim results from Graseby showing underlying pre-tax profits up 11 per cent to £4.2m suggest that things are going in the right direction. The bid will

## Candidates line up in the Abbey succession stakes

## PEOPLE &amp; BUSINESS



Peter Birch, Abbey's outgoing chief executive, is proving a hard act to follow

could have waited outside his front door and button-holed Mr Mayo, waving a fistful of fivers. Sir David Barnes, Zeneca's chief executive, admits that "we each see the other lot coming and going - but there's no more interaction than that". Perhaps Sir David is being naive.

Mr Mayo, a 41-year-old corporate finance whizz, certainly isn't moving to improve his working surroundings. Zeneca's head office is a recently refurbished Victorian palace of a building, all pillars and porticos, while the GEC Lubianka across the way looks like a drab concrete shoe box from one of the less scenic parts of the West Midlands.

City punters are keen to see Mr Mayo put his well-known dealmaking skills to use dismembering Arnold Weinstock's sclerotic empire, which includes over 400 subsidiaries. Mr Mayo originally trained as an accountant and honed his corporate finance skills at SG Warburg, before it was swallowed by SBC.

Warburg insiders recall there were two John Mayo's at the bank in the 1980s. In order to avoid confusion they had to refer to "Old Mr Mayo," who was head of compliance and a distinguished former senior partner of City law firm Freshfields and "Young Mr Mayo", the Young Turk in corporate finance.

Mayo junior had several good corporate clients at that time, including Pentland, which he helped steer through its lucrative ownership of Reebok, the trainers manufacturer. Sir David Scholey, then head of Warburg, seconded Mr Mayo in October 1990 to ICI and following the split he was invited to stay on at Zeneca as their beancounter in chief.

Sir David says he enjoyed working with Mr Mayo. "The intellectual challenge at GEC just across the street had an irresistible magnetic pull for him."

John Willcock

## Willis Corroon joins Abbey in IFA venture

Magnus Grimond

Willis Corroon, the insurance broking group, and Abbey National yesterday announced the creation of what is expected to be the UK's second-biggest group of independent financial advisers. The new joint venture, to be called Willis National, will have a salesforce of around 200, somewhat less than the biggest IFA group operated by the Bradford & Bingley Building Society.

The deal is partly a response to growing frustration that Abbey's existing network has been unable to mark out its independence clearly from its parent company, which itself sells Abbey National and Scottish Mutual products through tied agents within the 875-strong chain of branches. Willis National will be 51 per cent owned by Willis Corroon, further distancing the new venture from Abbey.

Charles Toner, chairman of Abbey National Independent Financial Advisers, said: "The

deal is partly a response to growing frustration that Abbey's existing network has been unable to mark out its independence clearly from its parent company, which itself sells Abbey National and Scottish Mutual products through tied agents within the 875-strong chain of branches. Willis National will be 51 per cent owned by Willis Corroon, further distancing the new venture from Abbey.

Charles Toner, chairman of

Abbey National Independent Financial Advisers, said: "The deal is partly a response to growing frustration that Abbey's existing network has been unable to mark out its independence clearly from its parent company, which itself sells Abbey National and Scottish Mutual products through tied agents within the 875-strong chain of branches. Willis National will be 51 per cent owned by Willis Corroon, further distancing the new venture from Abbey.

Charles Toner, chairman of

Abbey National Independent Financial Advisers, said: "The deal is partly a response to growing frustration that Abbey's existing network has been unable to mark out its independence clearly from its parent company, which itself sells Abbey National and Scottish Mutual products through tied agents within the 875-strong chain of branches. Willis National will be 51 per cent owned by Willis Corroon, further distancing the new venture from Abbey.

Charles Toner, chairman of

Abbey National Independent Financial Advisers, said: "The deal is partly a response to growing frustration that Abbey's existing network has been unable to mark out its independence clearly from its parent company, which itself sells Abbey National and Scottish Mutual products through tied agents within the 875-strong chain of branches. Willis National will be 51 per cent owned by Willis Corroon, further distancing the new venture from Abbey.

Charles Toner, chairman of

Abbey National Independent Financial Advisers, said: "The deal is partly a response to growing frustration that Abbey's existing network has been unable to mark out its independence clearly from its parent company, which itself sells Abbey National and Scottish Mutual products through tied agents within the 875-strong chain of branches. Willis National will be 51 per cent owned by Willis Corroon, further distancing the new venture from Abbey.

Charles Toner, chairman of

Abbey National Independent Financial Advisers, said: "The deal is partly a response to growing frustration that Abbey's existing network has been unable to mark out its independence clearly from its parent company, which itself sells Abbey National and Scottish Mutual products through tied agents within the 875-strong chain of branches. Willis National will be 51 per cent owned by Willis Corroon, further distancing the new venture from Abbey.

Charles Toner, chairman of

Abbey National Independent Financial Advisers, said: "The deal is partly a response to growing frustration that Abbey's existing network has been unable to mark out its independence clearly from its parent company, which itself sells Abbey National and Scottish Mutual products through tied agents within the 875-strong chain of branches. Willis National will be 51 per cent owned by Willis Corroon, further distancing the new venture from Abbey.

Charles Toner, chairman of

Abbey National Independent Financial Advisers, said: "The deal is partly a response to growing frustration that Abbey's existing network has been unable to mark out its independence clearly from its parent company, which itself sells Abbey National and Scottish Mutual products through tied agents within the 875-strong chain of branches. Willis National will be 51 per cent owned by Willis Corroon, further distancing the new venture from Abbey.

Charles Toner, chairman of

Abbey National Independent Financial Advisers, said: "The deal is partly a response to growing frustration that Abbey's existing network has been unable to mark out its independence clearly from its parent company, which itself sells Abbey National and Scottish Mutual products through tied agents within the 875-strong chain of branches. Willis National will be 51 per cent owned by Willis Corroon, further distancing the new venture from Abbey.

Charles Toner, chairman of

Abbey National Independent Financial Advisers, said: "The deal is partly a response to growing frustration that Abbey's existing network has been unable to mark out its independence clearly from its parent company, which itself sells Abbey National and Scottish Mutual products through tied agents within the 875-strong chain of branches. Willis National will be 51 per cent owned by Willis Corroon, further distancing the new venture from Abbey.

Charles Toner, chairman of

Abbey National Independent Financial Advisers, said: "The deal is partly a response to growing frustration that Abbey's existing network has been unable to mark out its independence clearly from its parent company, which itself sells Abbey National and Scottish Mutual products through tied agents within the 875-strong chain of branches. Willis National will be 51 per cent owned by Willis Corroon, further distancing the new venture from Abbey.

Charles Toner, chairman of

Abbey National Independent Financial Advisers, said: "The deal is partly a response to growing frustration that Abbey's existing network has been unable to mark out its independence clearly from its parent company, which itself sells Abbey National and Scottish Mutual products through tied agents within the 875-strong chain of branches. Willis National will be 51 per cent owned by Willis Corroon, further distancing the new venture from Abbey.

Charles Toner, chairman of

Abbey National Independent Financial Advisers, said: "The deal is partly a response to growing frustration that Abbey's existing network has been unable to mark out its independence clearly from its parent company, which itself sells Abbey National and Scottish Mutual products through tied agents within the 875-strong chain of branches. Willis National will be 51 per cent owned by Willis Corroon, further distancing the new venture from Abbey.

Charles Toner, chairman of

Abbey National Independent Financial Advisers, said: "The deal is partly a response to growing frustration that Abbey's existing network has been unable to mark out its independence clearly from its parent company, which itself sells Abbey National and Scottish Mutual products through tied agents within the 875-strong chain of branches. Willis National will be 51 per cent owned by Willis Corroon, further distancing the new venture from Abbey.

Charles Toner, chairman of

Abbey National Independent Financial Advisers, said: "The deal is partly a response to growing frustration that Abbey's existing network has been unable to mark out its independence clearly from its parent company, which itself sells Abbey National and Scottish Mutual products through tied agents within the 875-strong chain of branches. Willis National will be 51 per cent owned by Willis Corroon, further distancing the new venture from Abbey.

Charles Toner, chairman of

Abbey National Independent Financial Advisers, said: "The deal is partly a response to growing frustration that Abbey's existing network has been unable to mark out its independence clearly from its parent company, which itself sells Abbey National and Scottish Mutual products through tied agents within the 875-strong chain of branches. Willis National will be 51 per cent owned by Willis Corroon, further distancing the new venture from Abbey.

Charles Toner, chairman of

Abbey National Independent Financial Advisers, said: "The deal is partly a response to growing frustration that Abbey's existing network has been unable to mark out its independence clearly from its parent company, which itself sells Abbey National and Scottish Mutual products through tied agents within the 875-strong chain of branches. Willis National will be 51 per cent owned by Willis Corroon, further distancing the new venture from Abbey.

Charles Toner, chairman of

Abbey National Independent Financial Advisers, said: "The deal is partly a response to growing frustration that Abbey's existing network has been unable to mark out its independence clearly from its parent company, which itself sells Abbey National and Scottish Mutual products through tied agents within the 875-strong chain of branches. Willis National will be 51 per cent owned by Willis Corroon, further distancing the new venture from Abbey.

Charles Toner, chairman of

Abbey National Independent Financial Advisers, said: "The deal is partly a response to growing frustration that Abbey's existing network has been unable to mark out its independence clearly from its parent company, which itself sells Abbey National and Scottish Mutual products through tied agents within the 875-strong chain of branches. Willis National will be 51 per cent owned by Willis Corroon, further distancing the new venture from Abbey.

Charles Toner, chairman of

Abbey National Independent Financial Advisers, said: "The deal is partly a response to growing frustration that Abbey's existing network has been unable to mark out its independence clearly from its parent company, which itself sells Abbey National and Scottish Mutual products through tied agents within the 875-strong chain of branches. Willis National will be 51 per cent owned by Willis Corroon, further distancing the new venture from Abbey.

Charles Toner, chairman of

Abbey National Independent Financial Advisers, said: "The deal is partly a response to growing frustration that Abbey's existing network has been unable to mark out its independence clearly from its parent company, which itself sells Abbey National and Scottish Mutual products through tied agents within the 875-strong chain of branches. Willis National will be 51 per cent owned by Willis Corroon, further distancing the new venture from Abbey.

Charles Toner, chairman of

Abbey National Independent Financial Advisers, said: "The deal is partly a response to growing frustration that Abbey's existing network has been unable to mark out its independence clearly from its parent company, which itself sells Abbey National and Scottish Mutual products through tied agents within the 875-strong chain of branches. Willis National will be 51 per cent owned by Willis Corroon, further distancing the new venture from Abbey.

Charles Toner, chairman of

Abbey National Independent Financial Advisers, said: "The deal is partly a response to growing frustration that Abbey's existing network has been unable to mark out its independence clearly from its parent company, which itself sells Abbey National and Scottish Mutual products through tied agents within the 875-strong chain of branches. Willis National will be 51 per cent owned by Willis Corroon, further distancing the



### Foreign Exchange Rates

STERLING				DOLLAR		
Country	Spot	1 month	3 months	Spot	1 month	3 months
US	1.6274	21-19	61-58	1.000	-	-
Canada	2.2470	71-65	208-201	1.8008	32-31	68-68
Germany	3.0577	97-90	288-278	1.6780	29-38	117-116
France	10.322	340-320	920-860	5.8430	118-113	368-346
Italy	2692.7	02-1.4	18-0.7	1.8578	174-17.9	46.5-43.0
Japan	193.85	104-100	307-302	1.1912	52-51	152-151
ECU	1.5467	35-31	108-101	1.0508	14-15	45-47
Belgium	63.161	21-15	59-51	38.200	7-87.4	22.0-22.4
Denmark	11.855	340-320	1010-900	7.1620	119-115	365-355
Netherlands	3.4423	106-98	318-304	2.1159	43-42	126-127
Ireland	1.1344	8-2	22-18	1.4346	8-7	18-16
Norway	12.612	350-350	990-860	7.7502	147-142	438-419
Spain	258.49	37-28	116-97	156.84	5-4	23-21
Sweden	13.136	310-340	820-800	8.0722	83-88	289-279
Switzerland	2.4958	114-105	342-322	1.5335	54-53	161-159
Australia	2.1989	39-34	125-116	1.2818	7-6	25-23
Hong Kong	12.586	18-2	103-46	7.7405	4-5	13-15
Malaysia	4.2003	34-51	102-143	2.6425	40-50	125-145
New Zealand	2.5217	26-36	63-77	1.5485	7-9	31-33
Saudi Arabia	8.1033	37-33	129-110	3.7505	68	15-19
		41-44	153-141	1.4715	19-16	58-53
						0.7632

**OTHER SPOT RATES**

OTHER SPOT RATES		Country	Sterling	Dollar
Country	Sterling	Dollar		
Argentina	1,8275	0.9999	Nigeria	135.197
Austria	21.5158	13.2215	Oman	0.2957
Brazil	1.7644	1.0840	Pakistan	65.5885
China	13.4841	8.2903	Philippines	46.9581
Egypt	5.5277	3.3975	Portugal	30.9885
Finland	9.1056	5.5386	Qatar	5.9241
Ghana	3564.86	219.00	Russia	9447.17
Greece	477.083	253.080	South Africa	7.5757
India	58.1158	35.7120	Taiwan	46.5929
Kuwait	0.4969	0.3053	UAE	5.9794

### **Tourist Rates**

Interest Rates		Interest Rates	
£ Buys	£ Buys	£ Buys	£ Buys
Australia(Dollars)	2.1450	France(Franc)	New Zealand(Dollars)
Austria(Schillings)	20.9400	Germany(Mark)	2.4485
Belgium(Francs)	67.1500	Greece(Drachma)	12.0300
Canada(Dollars)	2.1850	Hong Kong(Dollars)	283.5000
Cyprus(Pounds)	0.9850	Iceland(Pura)	243.7500
Denmark(Kroner)	11.3550	Italy(Lira)	12.5300
Holland(Gulders)	3.3200	Japan(Yen)	2.3500
Finland(Marka)	8.8200	Malta(Liri)	25330.0000
			United States(Dollars)
			1.5635

Discount	0.25%	Discount
Netherlands		Denmark
Advances	2.90%	Discount

Advanced		Emerging		Corporate		Mortgage		Bonds		Money		
Country	5 yr	10 yr	yield %	Country	5 yr	10 yr	yield %	Country	5 yr	10 yr	yield %	
UK	7.0%	7.0%	7.25%	7.0%	Netherlands	8.25%	4.80	5.75%	5.54			
US	6.6%	8.12	8.25%	6.23	Spain	7.90%	5.65	7.35%	6.27			
Japan	5.00%	1.33	2.00%	2.25	Italy	8.25%	5.40	6.75%	6.75			
Australia	10.0%	8.03	6.75%	6.37	Belgium	9.0%	4.94	8.25%	5.80			
Germany	8.0%	4.95	6.0%	5.71	Sweden	13.0%	8.84	6.50%	6.55			
France	4.75%	4.83	5.50%	5.63	ECU/GAT	6.0%	5.19	5.50%	5.09			

## **"Information professionals rank Financial Times Information as the most important UK business information provider"**

Financial Times Information provides online information from over 5,000 business sources comprising 43 million documents, as well as a database of 3.5 million securities and fundamental data on quoted companies.

For more information contact Andrew Hunt on +44 171 825 8430, or email: [info@f.com](mailto:info@f.com)  
For free samples of our services, visit our website: <http://www.info-f.com/>

FT  
FINANCIAL TIMES

**FINSTAT** - instant PC access to Financial Times Statistical data.  
 For further information, call Leeanne Gilliar at FT Information  
 on +44 171 825 8430 or email: [leeanne.gilliar@ft.com](mailto:leeanne.gilliar@ft.com)

81 00 67-48

---

**FT**  
**FINANCIAL TIMES**  
*Information*

# Puett's genius has enduring impact

Starting stalls are such a familiar part of the racing landscape that it is only when they fail – before the Golden Mile at Goodwood last week, for instance – that anyone notices they are there. Day after day, on five continents, the gates keep snapping open, and the field is off and running.

No one now could imagine a return to the days of ragged starting stalls, when one official was said to ask large fields to form “two orderly lines, the trim at the front, non-trimmers behind”. Yet, when the first electric starting gate was demonstrated at a meeting in British Columbia, Canada, in

July 1959, it met with scepticism, since few of the spectators believed that a dozen or so horses could be boxed up safely and efficiently. And if that seems remarkable enough, consider also the fact that the man who invented the starting stall is still around to recount the tale.

Clay Puett will be 78 next month, but he continues to oversee the True Center Gate Leasing company in Phoenix, Arizona, which he founded to market his new device. As with so many clever inventions, the stall was born out of failure and frustration, in Puett's case the result of being asked to act as a starter at a track in Col-

orado. “I was a complete failure,” he says, “and I wasn't used to that. I just couldn't get them away in any kind of a line. There

RICHARD EDMONDSON  
NAP: Eastern Purple  
(Newcastle 2.30)  
NB: Confronter  
(Epsom 8.30)

were seven or eight riders and they all wanted to be first. I had no control, so I decided to invent a piece of equipment that

would let them out when I wanted them out.”

It took Puett a decade to come up with the design which, while it has changed in several minor details, is still the basis of stalls throughout the world today. “Nobody's ever made one better than ours,” he says. “People didn't think you could lock up a thoroughbred. However, I thought different. Horses are a lot like people, if you treat them with kindness, you'll get along.”

He was right, as the first tri-

al at a course in Vancouver on 1 July 1959 was to prove, and scepticism swiftly turned to unabridged enthusiasm. “It took me by surprise,” Puett says.

“By the end of 1940, they were being used at every major track in the United States, first at Bay Meadows in California when that opened that year, and then at Pimlico, Belmont and so

on. It remains a thriving business. Puett still spends part of each day supervising repairs in the company workshop, and in the last year alone, the firm has exported stalls to places as far away as Puerto Rico, Peru and Thailand. Many others are

leased to domestic tracks and training centres, which allows their inventor to take a hand in their upkeep.

“People don't maintain them,” Puett says. “It's like your automobile, if you don't take care of it, it won't take care of you, so I rent them and I service them.”

Almost 60 years after his idea started to transform racing worldwide, Clay Puett is still regularly making improvements to the design. “I'm building a new 12-gate stall for a race track in Tucson,” he says. “I reckon that might be the last one I'll build.”

Few would care to bet on it.

## Bastiman suffers record punishment

Most people's idea of a steep learning curve pales alongside the lessons Harvey Bastiman had to absorb yesterday. The apprentice created an unwanted record at Catterick when he was given suspensions totalling 16 days for his riding in one race.

Bastiman, 22, was stood down for 10 days for reckless riding after the well-backed

Mcbote had finished first-past-the-post in the Doncaster Town Moor Handicap, but the stewards also took exception to his use of the whip and added a further suspension of six days. Bastiman's spell out of the saddle runs from 14 to 23 August and then from 25 to 30 August.

To complete a miserable day for the Bastimans the jockey's fir-

ther Robin, the trainer of Myboby, was fined £200 for failing to inform the stewards of the reasons for Myboby's poor performance on his previous outing.

According to Jockey Club records no jockey has given his employer such a severe penalty by race-course stewards for his riding in one race.

“Of course, a ban could be much higher if the offence was serious enough to be referred to Portman Square.”

## NEWCASTLE

**HYPERION**  
2.30 Eastern Purple 3.00 The Canine Rover 3.30  
Sherry 4.00 Indigo 4.30 Weetman's  
Weigh 5.00 Pride of Pendle

GODING: Good to Firm.

STALLS: In.

DRAW ADVANTAGE: Low for Nf to Nf in round course.

ADMISSION: 10s to 11s for 1s to 10s, 1s to 10s.

ADMISSION: 10s to 11s for 1s to 10s, 1s to 10s.

ADMISSION: 10s to 11s for 1s to 10s, 1s to 10s.

ADMISSION: 10s to 11s for 1s to 10s, 1s to 10s.

ADMISSION: 10s to 11s for 1s to 10s, 1s to 10s.

ADMISSION: 10s to 11s for 1s to 10s, 1s to 10s.

ADMISSION: 10s to 11s for 1s to 10s, 1s to 10s.

ADMISSION: 10s to 11s for 1s to 10s, 1s to 10s.

ADMISSION: 10s to 11s for 1s to 10s, 1s to 10s.

ADMISSION: 10s to 11s for 1s to 10s, 1s to 10s.

ADMISSION: 10s to 11s for 1s to 10s, 1s to 10s.

ADMISSION: 10s to 11s for 1s to 10s, 1s to 10s.

ADMISSION: 10s to 11s for 1s to 10s, 1s to 10s.

ADMISSION: 10s to 11s for 1s to 10s, 1s to 10s.

ADMISSION: 10s to 11s for 1s to 10s, 1s to 10s.

ADMISSION: 10s to 11s for 1s to 10s, 1s to 10s.

ADMISSION: 10s to 11s for 1s to 10s, 1s to 10s.

ADMISSION: 10s to 11s for 1s to 10s, 1s to 10s.

ADMISSION: 10s to 11s for 1s to 10s, 1s to 10s.

ADMISSION: 10s to 11s for 1s to 10s, 1s to 10s.

ADMISSION: 10s to 11s for 1s to 10s, 1s to 10s.

ADMISSION: 10s to 11s for 1s to 10s, 1s to 10s.

ADMISSION: 10s to 11s for 1s to 10s, 1s to 10s.

ADMISSION: 10s to 11s for 1s to 10s, 1s to 10s.

ADMISSION: 10s to 11s for 1s to 10s, 1s to 10s.

ADMISSION: 10s to 11s for 1s to 10s, 1s to 10s.

ADMISSION: 10s to 11s for 1s to 10s, 1s to 10s.

ADMISSION: 10s to 11s for 1s to 10s, 1s to 10s.

ADMISSION: 10s to 11s for 1s to 10s, 1s to 10s.

ADMISSION: 10s to 11s for 1s to 10s, 1s to 10s.

ADMISSION: 10s to 11s for 1s to 10s, 1s to 10s.

ADMISSION: 10s to 11s for 1s to 10s, 1s to 10s.

ADMISSION: 10s to 11s for 1s to 10s, 1s to 10s.

ADMISSION: 10s to 11s for 1s to 10s, 1s to 10s.

ADMISSION: 10s to 11s for 1s to 10s, 1s to 10s.

ADMISSION: 10s to 11s for 1s to 10s, 1s to 10s.

ADMISSION: 10s to 11s for 1s to 10s, 1s to 10s.

ADMISSION: 10s to 11s for 1s to 10s, 1s to 10s.

ADMISSION: 10s to 11s for 1s to 10s, 1s to 10s.

ADMISSION: 10s to 11s for 1s to 10s, 1s to 10s.

ADMISSION: 10s to 11s for 1s to 10s, 1s to 10s.

ADMISSION: 10s to 11s for 1s to 10s, 1s to 10s.

ADMISSION: 10s to 11s for 1s to 10s, 1s to 10s.

ADMISSION: 10s to 11s for 1s to 10s, 1s to 10s.

ADMISSION: 10s to 11s for 1s to 10s, 1s to 10s.

ADMISSION: 10s to 11s for 1s to 10s, 1s to 10s.

ADMISSION: 10s to 11s for 1s to 10s, 1s to 10s.

ADMISSION: 10s to 11s for 1s to 10s, 1s to 10s.

ADMISSION: 10s to 11s for 1s to 10s, 1s to 10s.

ADMISSION: 10s to 11s for 1s to 10s, 1s to 10s.

ADMISSION: 10s to 11s for 1s to 10s, 1s to 10s.

ADMISSION: 10s to 11s for 1s to 10s, 1s to 10s.

ADMISSION: 10s to 11s for 1s to 10s, 1s to 10s.

ADMISSION: 10s to 11s for 1s to 10s, 1s to 10s.

ADMISSION: 10s to 11s for 1s to 10s, 1s to 10s.

ADMISSION: 10s to 11s for 1s to 10s, 1s to 10s.

ADMISSION: 10s to 11s for 1s to 10s, 1s to 10s.

ADMISSION: 10s to 11s for 1s to 10s, 1s to 10s.

ADMISSION: 10s to 11s for 1s to 10s, 1s to 10s.

ADMISSION: 10s to 11s for 1s to 10s, 1s to 10s.

ADMISSION: 10s to 11s for 1s to 10s, 1s to 10s.

ADMISSION: 10s to 11s for 1s to 10s, 1s to 10s.

ADMISSION: 10s to 11s for 1s to 10s, 1s to 10s.

ADMISSION: 10s to 11s for 1s to 10s, 1s to 10s.

ADMISSION: 10s to 11s for 1s to 10s, 1s to 10s.

ADMISSION: 10s to 11s for 1s to 10s, 1s to 10s.

ADMISSION: 10s to 11s for 1s to 10s, 1s to 10s.

ADMISSION: 10s to 11s for 1s to 10s, 1s to 10s.

ADMISSION: 10s to 11s for 1s to 10s, 1s to 10s.

ADMISSION: 10s to 11s for 1s to 10s, 1s to 10s.

ADMISSION: 10s to 11s for 1s to 10s, 1s to 10s.

ADMISSION: 10s to 11s for 1s to 10s, 1s to 10s.

ADMISSION: 10s to 11s for 1s to 10s, 1s to 10s.

ADMISSION: 10s to 11s for 1s to 10s, 1s to 10s.

ADMISSION: 10s to 11s for 1s to 10s, 1s to 10s.

ADMISSION: 10s to 11s for 1s to 10s, 1s to 10s.

ADMISSION: 10s to 11s for 1s to 10s, 1s to 10s.

ADMISSION: 10s to 11s for 1s to 10s, 1s to 10s.

ADMISSION: 10s to 11s for 1s to 10s, 1s to 10s.

ADMISSION: 10s to 11s for 1s to 10s, 1s to 10s.

ADMISSION: 10s to 11s for 1s to 10s, 1s to 10s.

ADMISSION: 10s to 11s for 1s to 10s, 1s to 10s.

ADMISSION: 10s to 11s for 1s to 10s, 1s to 10s.

ADMISSION: 10s to 11s for 1s to 10s, 1s to 10s.

ADMISSION: 10s to 11s for 1s to 10s, 1s to 10s.

ADMISSION: 10s to 11s for 1s to 10s, 1s to 10s.

ADMISSION: 10s to 11s for 1s to 10s, 1s to 10s.



# From acorns, Oakwell grows

**Glenn Moore**  
charts the  
rise and rise of  
Barnsley, the  
Premiership's  
unlikely new boys

Last summer they warmed up for the new season by playing Wigan and finished it by losing 5-1 at Oxford United. This season they have prepared by hosting Santos of Brazil and will conclude with the visit of Manchester United.

Such is the pace of change at Barnsley, a club formerly noted only in Michael Parkinson's memories. On Saturday they become the 29th team, and possibly the least likely, to play in the Premiership when West Ham United arrive.

In 110 years, Barnsley have never been in the top flight and were getting goals below 4,000 four seasons ago. Like Port Vale and Grimsby, the only time they were mentioned in the same breath as the Premiership was as a threat to teams facing relegation.

No longer. From Adams to Zola, the very best are now heading for Oakwell and they will be pleasantly surprised by it. Since reluctantly and belatedly agreeing to adopt the Taylor Report five years ago Oakwell has been transformed. What was once an open barn, large but dated with barely 2,000 seats, is now an all-seater 19,000 arena which retains enough of the old memories to give it the edge over the new Meccano pre-fabs. It also has room to grow, being on one of the largest sites in the Premiership at 25 acres (Highbury is 10 acres).

The twin masters of this domain are the contrasting pair of John Dennis and Danny Wilson. Dennis is a big man in his mid-forties, the son of a former chairman, Yorkshire-born and a Barnsley fan since childhood. He has been known to leap about the directors' box, but is yet to become one of the monocled chairmen who work at the club and look to the stock exchange. Away from match days he is busy running the family fruit-and-veg business.

Wilson, a decade younger and half a foot shorter, is a Lancastrian (though he played 24 times for Northern Ireland). Quieter and more



Promotion party: Barnsley's John Hendrie is chaired high as the club win a place in the Premiership last season

Photograph: Simon Wilkinson

intense, he has been in the game since he was 16, playing under "about 15 managers" but being more influenced by 13 months under Brian Clough than anyone else.

It shows in his team's football. "Don't call us battling Barnsley," he has cautioned. "It makes us sound a bunch of thugs. Why not 'stylish Barnsley' for that's nearer the truth. "You won't see us pumping long balls forward. We try to put on a show and that means playing the ball to the feet. That was the style of football I was brought up on, what I want to see and what I think the public want to see." He appears to be right, with all 16,000 season tickets sold - the remaining 3,000 spaces are for away fans.

Not that the supporters were always keen. When Dennis promoted Wilson to manager in 1994, after Viv Anderson had joined Bryan Robson at Middlesbrough, the club were concentrating on rebuilding the ground and Wilson had to manage with just inspiration and perspiration. Both men were criticised as the club slipped into the relegation zone with two wins in the first nine games and crowds below 4,000.

"The locals were playing hell," Wilson recalled. "I was a convenient scapegoat because I was still playing and for four months I was hammered."

However, the team finished 10th and sixth while the stands went up around them. Then, given a little cash to spend, Wilson looked abroad. He brought in Arjan de Zeeuw, a Dutch doctor, and Trinidad's Clint Marcellie. From Middles-

brough came John Hendrie and Paul Wilkinson further supplementing youngsters such as the England Under-21 goalkeeper, David Watson, and experienced pros like the skipper.

## Rising without trace

Other minnows who made the big time

Club	Years in top flight	Total years
Bristol City	1906-11	9
	1976-80	
Cardiff	1975-77	2
Fulham	1949-52	12
	1959-68	
Nottingham	1965-66	1
Watford	1982-88	6
Wimbledon	1986-now	11

Neil Redfern. The mix worked: Barnsley won the first five matches and have rarely looked back.

But now comes the Premiership. "I can't wait to go to places like Old Trafford and Anfield," Wilson said. "I'm going to learn a lot and we'll give a good account of ourselves. I believe we can stay up. We have good bonding and a little bit of skill."

How quickly the newcomers - the Macedonian striker Gjorgi Hristov, German Lars Leese, Ales Krizan, a Slovenian, and South African's Eric Tinkler - settle could be crucial. Good luck with injuries will also be required if Barnsley are to justify the local slogan "It's just like watching Brazil".

Simply by getting to the Premiership Barnsley have struck a

blow for all those clubs held in thinly veiled contempt by the Premiership barons. They are proof that, with good husbandry and smart management, "small" clubs can earn the right to tangible with the best. It will be good for the game if they survive, but even if they do not one hopes Wilson will stick to his principles and ultimately prosper.

And that Dennis, who was once censured for bursting into the referee's room and berating Ray Lewis ("I felt a right prat when I got there"), will still find the time and perspective to pull a pint for the team and his assistants before delivering it personally - still in the glass.

Mind, if it's the local brew, Timothy Taylor's award-winning Landlord, Dennis should be careful. It might constitute a bribe.

# Confessions of a nostalgic Spurs fan



Despite becoming the Everton of London, David Aaronovitch sees some hope for Tottenham supporters. Well, sort of

At the moment you can get odds of between 33 and 40 to 1 against Tottenham winning the Premiership this season - and that hurts. But why should it? Except for two years at the beginning of the Sixties, Spurs have never dominated British football in the way that - at different times - Liverpool, Man Utd or Leeds have. The club hasn't matched Arsenal for consistency. They, Aston Villa, Nottingham Forest and Everton have all won the championship since we last did. That's the history, so what's my problem now?

Well, for one, it's the manner of the thing. Spurs at their best, were a "Cup team" in the best sense. In both the 70s and 80s, for instance, we won three of em, and appeared in two other finals. And we did it all with style, which was something that Arsenal never had. Style, you see, never prospered there: whether in the shape of Charlie Nicholas or Alan Hudson. Like an exotic plant in a barren back yard, it always withered in the face of Arsenal's relentless defensiveness, its co-ordinated ordinariness.

Arsenal won more, but we were the team to see. Out of the dreadful period of the mid-Seventies, were born teams with flair, with art. Ardiles and Villa came to Spurs. We spawned Glenn Hoddle, and we bought Paul Gascoigne and Chris Waddle. Gary Lineker, at the height of his powers, chose White Hart Lane. Darren Anderton turned United down. And above all, there was Jürgen, his one season at the club like a glorious, bittersweet holiday romance with the most intelligent and voluptuous woman you can imagine. We were talked about, written about, all our matches covered on Capital radio. The Evening Standard full of Spurs minutiae. We felt fashionable.

And then, under the glossy impractical reign of Osie Ardiles, in free fall. When Ardiles was sacked, the incoming Gerry Francis stopped the rot within days. From the Charge of the Light Brigade we turned into FA Cup semi-finalists. The next season, we felt, it was there for the taking.

And then, gradually, things started to go wrong. Glenn Hoddle, managing at Chelsea, brought Ruud Gullit and, with Matthew Harding's dash, began to put a team together. And Arsenal - Arsenal for chrisssake! - bought Dennis Bergkamp. We, however, lost little Barnby (oh, foolish Barnby!) and Jürgen Darren Anderton was crocked for virtually the whole season. Ilie Dumitrescu, it turned out, could not play football.

Chairman Alan Sugar got the blame. His sandpaper voice and sandpaper face made him seem charmless, his Thatcherite business background suggested a lack of humanity. He was John Birt, in an industry that loves its Michael Grade. When he jibed at "Carlos Kickaball", the archetypal useless foreign import, the fans saw only Juninho and Zola and lasted after them. But gradually the discerning fan has begun to realise that Spurs is not the problem, the restrictions placed on Kenny

Win the ultimate prize  
A trip to the 1998 World Cup Final.



Register for the  
Independent Fantasy  
Football League  
this Saturday

THE INDEPENDENT

shake-  
ins so  
approv-

**GRAND PRIX PARTY**

**YOU CAN STILL PULL IT OFF!**

**EOS**

Keep your eyes peeled for Foster's Grand Prix Party prize-winning bottle tops and ring-pulls and you could be on your way to see one of the world's most exciting sports Down Under.

1000s of other prizes also available.

Closing Date: 31.3.98  
No Purchase necessary  
Age 18 or over  
See promotional card and bottles for details

FOSTER'S  
OFFICIAL SPONSOR  
OF GRAND PRIX

Scottish Courage Brands Ltd., Wardieburn House, 496 Ferry Road, Edinburgh EH5 2DL

WEEKEND POOLS FORECAST	
<b>FA Carrington Premiership</b>	
1. Barnsley v West Ham	1
2. Macclesfield v Derby	2
3. Coventry v QPR	3
4. Everton v Crystal Palace	1
5. Leeds v Arsenal	1
6. Leicester v Aston Villa	2
7. Newcastle v Sheffield Wednesday	1
8. Southampton v Bolton	2
9. Wrexham v Liverpool	2
Playing Sunday: Sheffield United v Sunderland	1
<b>Third Division</b>	
10. Chester v Lincoln	1
11. Colchester v Darlington	1
12. Exeter v Hartlepool	1
13. Leyton Orient v Cardiff	1
14. Macclesfield v Torquay	1
15. Mansfield v Hull	1
16. Notts County v Rochdale	2
17. Peterborough v Southport	1
18. Rotherham v Barnet	2
19. Scarborough v Cambridge	1
20. Shrewsbury v Doncaster	2
21. Swindon v Brighton	2
<b>Nationwide League</b>	
22. Birmingham v Stoke	1
23. Bradford v Stockport	1
24. Bury v Reading	1
25. Man City v Portsmouth	1
26. Middlesbrough v Charlton	1
27. Norwich v Wolverhampton	2
28. Oxford Utd v Rotherham	2
29. Port Vale v Notts Forest	1
30. Shrewsbury v Chester	1
31. Sutton v Crewe	1
32. West Brom v Thame	2
Playing Sunday: Sheffield United v Sunderland	1
<b>Second Division</b>	
33. Blackpool v Luton	1
34. Bristol Rovers v Plymouth	1
35. Chesterfield v Walsall	1
36. Fulham v Wrexham	1
37. Gillingham v Preston	2
38. Grimsby v Brest City	2
39. Millwall v Bradford	1
40. Notts County v Bournemouth	1
41. Oldham v Bournemouth	1
42. Southend v Carlisle	1
43. Swindon v Bury	1
44. Wigan v Wycombe	1
<b>Third Division</b>	
45. Chester v Lincoln	1
46. Colchester v Darlington	1
47. Exeter v Hartlepool	1
48. Leyton Orient v Cardiff	1
49. Macclesfield v Torquay	1
50. Mansfield v Hull	1
51. Notts County v Rochdale	2
52. Peterborough v Southport	1
53. Rotherham v Barnet	2
54. Scarborough v Cambridge	1
55. Shrewsbury v Doncaster	2
56. Swindon v Brighton	2
<b>Scottish Coca-Cola Cup</b>	
57. Dundee v Ayr	1
58. East Fife v Kilmarnock	2
59. Greenock Morton v Aldershot	1
60. Livingston v Hearts	1
61. Partick Thistle v Stirling	1
<b>Second Round</b>	
62. Ayr United v Arsenal	1
63. Queen's Park Rangers v Ipswich Town	1
64. Exeter City v Hartlepool United	1
65. Morton v Ayr United	1
66. Dundee United v Dundee	1
67. Queen of the South v Dundee United	1
68. United v Dundee United	1
69. Fife v Falkirk	1
70. St Johnstone v Clyde	1
71. St Mirren v Clydebank	1
72. Scottish League Cup First round: Stranraer v Arbroath	1
<b>FA Cup</b>	
73. Arsenal v Liverpool	1
74. Birmingham City v Manchester United	1
75. Chelsea v Nottingham Forest	1
76. Coventry City v Preston North End	1
77. Fife v Dundee	1
78. Ipswich Town v Bury	1
79. Leicester City v Middlesbrough	1
80. Liverpool v Aston Villa	1
81. Middlesbrough v Nottingham Forest	1
82. Newcastle United v Birmingham City	1
83. Nottingham Forest v Preston North End	1
84. Sheffield United v Middlesbrough	1
85. Tottenham Hotspur v Liverpool	1
86. West Ham United v Middlesbrough	1
87. Wigan v Nottingham Forest	1
88. Wrexham v Middlesbrough	1
89. Yeovil Town v Middlesbrough	1
90. Zulte Waregem v Middlesbrough	1
<b>FA Cup First round: Stranraer v Arbroath</b>	
91. Arbroath v Stranraer	1
92. Dundee United v Arbroath	1
93. Fife v Arbroath	1
94. St Mirren v Arbroath	1
95. St Johnstone v Arbroath	1
96. Dundee United v Arbroath	1
97. Fife v Arbroath	1
98. St Mirren v Arbroath	1
99. St Johnstone v Arbroath	1
100. Dundee United v Arbroath	1
101. Fife v Arbroath	1
102. St Mirren v Arbroath	1
103. St Johnstone v Arbroath	1
104. Dundee United v Arbroath	1
105. Fife v Arbroath	1
106. St Mirren v Arbroath	1
107. St Johnstone v Arbroath	1
108. Dundee United v Arbroath	1
109. Fife v Arbroath	1
110. St Mirren v Arbroath	1
111. St Johnstone v Arbroath	1
112. Dundee United v Arbroath	1
113. Fife v Arbroath	1
114. St Mirren v Arbroath	1
115. St Johnstone v Arbroath	1
116. Dundee United v Arbroath	1
117. Fife v Arbroath	1
118. St Mirren v Arbroath	1
119. St Johnstone v Arbroath	1
120. Dundee United v Arbroath	1
121. Fife v Arbroath	1
122. St Mirren v	

ised of  
riments

the logic and pointlessness of  
some group Animal Aid's  
"one man experiment" was  
a major mistake and then  
they got through their  
days with their life-long  
habit of eating chicken.

Now, by chance,  
a surprising and the state  
possibly the complete  
necessity and depression  
of the nation's life-line  
is a documentary showing  
cannibalism reappearing.

And Mad Science  
now seems to be a  
bit scared. According  
to the *Post* (London),  
Charles Atten

# Shake-up wins some approval

**David Llewellyn** canvasses opinion on the Board's blueprint for the future of cricket, unveiled at Lord's yesterday

There would have been a lot of quiet commutes heading back to the shires last night, their heads buried in the 32 pages of the England and Wales Cricket Board's "Blueprint for the Future Playing Structure of Cricket".

The consensus was one of approval tempered with caution. Somerset's chief executive, Peter Anderson, emerged from the 70-minute presentation at Lord's and said: "I'm a bit shocked. But I thought it was an innovative presentation, with some pretty good ideas."

What worries me are the costings – as a smaller club we are worried about our income level. One of the most radical things is a proposed reduction in Championship cricket, which worries me. But the increase in one-day cricket appeals."

There were no such misgivings from the bigger clubs. Bob Bennett, the chairman at Old Trafford, said: "I am delighted with the report."

The Surrey chief executive, Paul Sheldon, was more subdued, adding: "Although a two-division championship was preferable to us, a three-conference seems and the merging of the Sunday League and Benson and Hedges Cup certainly gives the appearance that we will be fighting for a lot longer in the season."

Yorkshire's chief executive, Chris Hassell, said: "It is more radical than I had expected. Once you get into the detail of the proposals you can see much in their favour."

One or two delegates were reluctant to say anything before they had had time to study the implications. The Worcester

shire secretary, Mike Vockins, would only venture a brief: "It's interesting." Nottinghamshire had taken a vote beforehand not to say anything until the county had discussed it.

The Sussex chief executive, Tony Pigott, questioned the validity of reducing the number of four-day games. "This was meant to be for the good of Test cricket," he said. "So cutting down on the four-day game leaves something to be discussed." Overall, however, he was behind the proposals. "I'd be surprised if Sussex did not support most of it."

Other aspects of the proposals include the phasing out of the Second XI championship by the year 2000, something which the Lancashire coach, Dav Whatmore, welcomed. "I reckon it's not a bad idea," he said. "A player can easily get lost on a county staff, there are so many players. This way you are going to have to perform."

Kent's Matthew Fleming, chairman of the Professional Cricketers' Association, said: "While I cannot speak officially for the PCA, I think the majority of players will be pleased, even though they had wanted two divisions. But I think this is a pretty good balance. It would mean an average of three [Championship] games a month, giving players a week off, which represents time for training, time to do quality work, time to recover from injuries."

England will give Darren Gough an intensive work-out today as he tries to shrug off a knee injury for the fifth Test. The Yorkshire fast bowler did not bowl during practice yesterday.

## Bentley hits the buffers

### Rugby League

John Bentley, who returned from a successful Lions tour to boost Halifax's flagging World Club Championship hopes, is unlikely to play rugby league again this season.

The 30-year-old winger ended up in hospital after being hurt in a tackle during Monday night's match against Brisbane Broncos at Thrum Hall.

The injury, diagnosed as rib cartilage damage, is expected to keep him out of action for three to four weeks.

Halifax have four Super League matches left, plus the end-of-season play-offs, and

Bentley, due to rejoin the rugby union club Newcastle in September, has not written off his chances of a return.

"I don't usually do too badly with injuries," he said. "If it heals speedily, I am keen to have another game."

Halifax also lost their utility back, Craig Dean, and the captain, Karl Harrison, through injury as they were humbled 54-10 by Brisbane.

The Super League campaign resumed last night when London Broncos, safely through to October's quarter-finals of the World Club Championship, were due to take on relegation-threatened Oldham at The Stoop.

### DETAILS FROM ATHENS

#### Men

400 metres final: 1 Michael Johnson (US) 44.12; 2 Davis Kanga (Aus) 44.13; 3 Koffi Sosoum (Bur) 44.18; 4 J Beekind (Jama) 44.47; 5 J Young (GB) 44.51; 6 I Thomas (GB) 44.52; 7 A Bruch (GB) 45.22.

110 metres hurdles final (first heat): 1 D Phillips (GB) 13.66; 2 J Johnson (US) 13.67; 3 S Krantz (Den) 13.70; 4 J Verner (GB) 13.71; 5 J Young (GB) 13.73; 6 J Morris (GB) 13.75; 7 A Morris (GB) 13.76; 8 J Morris (GB) 13.77; 9 J Morris (GB) 13.78; 10 J Morris (GB) 13.79; 11 J Morris (GB) 13.80; 12 J Morris (GB) 13.81; 13 J Morris (GB) 13.82; 14 J Morris (GB) 13.83; 15 J Morris (GB) 13.84; 16 J Morris (GB) 13.85; 17 J Morris (GB) 13.86; 18 J Morris (GB) 13.87; 19 J Morris (GB) 13.88; 20 J Morris (GB) 13.89; 21 J Morris (GB) 13.90; 22 J Morris (GB) 13.91; 23 J Morris (GB) 13.92; 24 J Morris (GB) 13.93; 25 J Morris (GB) 13.94; 26 J Morris (GB) 13.95; 27 J Morris (GB) 13.96; 28 J Morris (GB) 13.97; 29 J Morris (GB) 13.98; 30 J Morris (GB) 13.99; 31 J Morris (GB) 13.10; 32 J Morris (GB) 13.11; 33 J Morris (GB) 13.12; 34 J Morris (GB) 13.13; 35 J Morris (GB) 13.14; 36 J Morris (GB) 13.15; 37 J Morris (GB) 13.16; 38 J Morris (GB) 13.17; 39 J Morris (GB) 13.18; 40 J Morris (GB) 13.19; 41 J Morris (GB) 13.20; 42 J Morris (GB) 13.21; 43 J Morris (GB) 13.22; 44 J Morris (GB) 13.23; 45 J Morris (GB) 13.24; 46 J Morris (GB) 13.25; 47 J Morris (GB) 13.26; 48 J Morris (GB) 13.27; 49 J Morris (GB) 13.28; 50 J Morris (GB) 13.29; 51 J Morris (GB) 13.30; 52 J Morris (GB) 13.31; 53 J Morris (GB) 13.32; 54 J Morris (GB) 13.33; 55 J Morris (GB) 13.34; 56 J Morris (GB) 13.35; 57 J Morris (GB) 13.36; 58 J Morris (GB) 13.37; 59 J Morris (GB) 13.38; 60 J Morris (GB) 13.39; 61 J Morris (GB) 13.40; 62 J Morris (GB) 13.41; 63 J Morris (GB) 13.42; 64 J Morris (GB) 13.43; 65 J Morris (GB) 13.44; 66 J Morris (GB) 13.45; 67 J Morris (GB) 13.46; 68 J Morris (GB) 13.47; 69 J Morris (GB) 13.48; 70 J Morris (GB) 13.49; 71 J Morris (GB) 13.50; 72 J Morris (GB) 13.51; 73 J Morris (GB) 13.52; 74 J Morris (GB) 13.53; 75 J Morris (GB) 13.54; 76 J Morris (GB) 13.55; 77 J Morris (GB) 13.56; 78 J Morris (GB) 13.57; 79 J Morris (GB) 13.58; 80 J Morris (GB) 13.59; 81 J Morris (GB) 13.60; 82 J Morris (GB) 13.61; 83 J Morris (GB) 13.62; 84 J Morris (GB) 13.63; 85 J Morris (GB) 13.64; 86 J Morris (GB) 13.65; 87 J Morris (GB) 13.66; 88 J Morris (GB) 13.67; 89 J Morris (GB) 13.68; 90 J Morris (GB) 13.69; 91 J Morris (GB) 13.70; 92 J Morris (GB) 13.71; 93 J Morris (GB) 13.72; 94 J Morris (GB) 13.73; 95 J Morris (GB) 13.74; 96 J Morris (GB) 13.75; 97 J Morris (GB) 13.76; 98 J Morris (GB) 13.77; 99 J Morris (GB) 13.78; 100 J Morris (GB) 13.79; 101 J Morris (GB) 13.80; 102 J Morris (GB) 13.81; 103 J Morris (GB) 13.82; 104 J Morris (GB) 13.83; 105 J Morris (GB) 13.84; 106 J Morris (GB) 13.85; 107 J Morris (GB) 13.86; 108 J Morris (GB) 13.87; 109 J Morris (GB) 13.88; 110 J Morris (GB) 13.89; 111 J Morris (GB) 13.90; 112 J Morris (GB) 13.91; 113 J Morris (GB) 13.92; 114 J Morris (GB) 13.93; 115 J Morris (GB) 13.94; 116 J Morris (GB) 13.95; 117 J Morris (GB) 13.96; 118 J Morris (GB) 13.97; 119 J Morris (GB) 13.98; 120 J Morris (GB) 13.99; 121 J Morris (GB) 13.10; 122 J Morris (GB) 13.11; 123 J Morris (GB) 13.12; 124 J Morris (GB) 13.13; 125 J Morris (GB) 13.14; 126 J Morris (GB) 13.15; 127 J Morris (GB) 13.16; 128 J Morris (GB) 13.17; 129 J Morris (GB) 13.18; 130 J Morris (GB) 13.19; 131 J Morris (GB) 13.20; 132 J Morris (GB) 13.21; 133 J Morris (GB) 13.22; 134 J Morris (GB) 13.23; 135 J Morris (GB) 13.24; 136 J Morris (GB) 13.25; 137 J Morris (GB) 13.26; 138 J Morris (GB) 13.27; 139 J Morris (GB) 13.28; 140 J Morris (GB) 13.29; 141 J Morris (GB) 13.30; 142 J Morris (GB) 13.31; 143 J Morris (GB) 13.32; 144 J Morris (GB) 13.33; 145 J Morris (GB) 13.34; 146 J Morris (GB) 13.35; 147 J Morris (GB) 13.36; 148 J Morris (GB) 13.37; 149 J Morris (GB) 13.38; 150 J Morris (GB) 13.39; 151 J Morris (GB) 13.40; 152 J Morris (GB) 13.41; 153 J Morris (GB) 13.42; 154 J Morris (GB) 13.43; 155 J Morris (GB) 13.44; 156 J Morris (GB) 13.45; 157 J Morris (GB) 13.46; 158 J Morris (GB) 13.47; 159 J Morris (GB) 13.48; 160 J Morris (GB) 13.49; 161 J Morris (GB) 13.50; 162 J Morris (GB) 13.51; 163 J Morris (GB) 13.52; 164 J Morris (GB) 13.53; 165 J Morris (GB) 13.54; 166 J Morris (GB) 13.55; 167 J Morris (GB) 13.56; 168 J Morris (GB) 13.57; 169 J Morris (GB) 13.58; 170 J Morris (GB) 13.59; 171 J Morris (GB) 13.60; 172 J Morris (GB) 13.61; 173 J Morris (GB) 13.62; 174 J Morris (GB) 13.63; 175 J Morris (GB) 13.64; 176 J Morris (GB) 13.65; 177 J Morris (GB) 13.66; 178 J Morris (GB) 13.67; 179 J Morris (GB) 13.68; 180 J Morris (GB) 13.69; 181 J Morris (GB) 13.70; 182 J Morris (GB) 13.71; 183 J Morris (GB) 13.72; 184 J Morris (GB) 13.73; 185 J Morris (GB) 13.74; 186 J Morris (GB) 13.75; 187 J Morris (GB) 13.76; 188 J Morris (GB) 13.77; 189 J Morris (GB) 13.78; 190 J Morris (GB) 13.79; 191 J Morris (GB) 13.80; 192 J Morris (GB) 13.81; 193 J Morris (GB) 13.82; 194 J Morris (GB) 13.83; 195 J Morris (GB) 13.84; 196 J Morris (GB) 13.85; 197 J Morris (GB) 13.86; 198 J Morris (GB) 13.87; 199 J Morris (GB) 13.88; 200 J Morris (GB) 13.89; 201 J Morris (GB) 13.90; 202 J Morris (GB) 13.91; 203 J Morris (GB) 13.92; 204 J Morris (GB) 13.93; 205 J Morris (GB) 13.94; 206 J Morris (GB) 13.95; 207 J Morris (GB) 13.96; 208 J Morris (GB) 13.97; 209 J Morris (GB) 13.98; 210 J Morris (GB) 13.99; 211 J Morris (GB) 13.10; 212 J Morris (GB) 13.11; 213 J Morris (GB) 13.12; 214 J Morris (GB) 13.13; 215 J Morris (GB) 13.14; 216 J Morris (GB) 13.15; 217 J Morris (GB) 13.16; 218 J Morris (GB) 13.17; 219 J Morris (GB) 13.18; 220 J Morris (GB) 13.19; 221 J Morris (GB) 13.20; 222 J Morris (GB) 13.21; 223 J Morris (GB) 13.22; 224 J Morris (GB) 13.23; 225 J Morris (GB) 13.24; 226 J Morris (GB) 13.25; 227 J Morris (GB) 13.26; 228 J Morris (GB) 13.27; 229 J Morris (GB) 13.28; 230 J Morris (GB) 13.29; 231 J Morris (GB) 13.30; 232 J Morris (GB) 13.31; 233 J Morris (GB) 13.32; 234 J Morris (GB) 13.33; 235 J Morris (GB) 13.34; 236 J Morris (GB) 13.35; 237 J Morris (GB) 13.36; 238 J Morris (GB) 13.37; 239 J Morris (GB) 13.38; 240 J Morris (GB) 13.39; 241 J Morris (GB) 13.40; 242 J Morris (GB) 13.41; 243 J Morris (GB) 13.42; 244 J Morris (GB) 13.43; 245 J Morris (GB) 13.44; 246 J Morris (GB) 13.45; 247 J Morris (GB) 13.46; 248 J Morris (GB) 13.47; 249 J Morris (GB) 13.48; 250 J Morris (GB) 13.49; 251 J Morris (GB) 13.50; 252 J Morris (GB) 13.51; 253 J Morris (GB) 13.52; 254 J Morris (GB) 13.53; 255 J Morris (GB) 13.54; 256 J Morris (GB) 13.55; 257 J Morris (GB) 13.56; 258 J Morris (GB) 13.57; 259 J Morris (GB) 13.58; 260 J Morris (GB) 13.59; 261 J Morris (GB) 13.60; 262 J Morris (GB) 13.61; 263 J Morris (GB) 13.62; 264 J Morris (GB) 13.63; 265 J Morris (GB) 13.64; 266 J Morris (GB) 13.65; 267 J Morris (GB) 13.66; 268 J Morris (GB) 13.67; 269 J Morris (GB) 13.68; 270 J Morris (GB) 13.69; 271 J Morris (GB) 13.70; 272 J Morris (GB) 13.71; 273 J Morris (GB) 13.72; 274 J Morris (GB) 13.73; 275 J Morris (GB) 13.74; 276 J Morris (GB) 13.75; 277 J Morris (GB) 13.76; 278 J Morris (GB) 13.77; 279 J Morris (GB) 13.78; 280 J Morris (GB) 13.79; 281 J Morris (GB) 13.80; 282 J Morris (GB) 13.81; 283 J Morris (GB) 13.82; 284 J Morris (GB) 13.83; 285 J Morris (GB) 13.84; 286 J Morris (GB) 13.85; 287 J Morris (GB) 13.86; 288 J Morris (GB) 13.87; 289 J Morris (GB) 13.88; 290 J Morris (GB) 13.89; 291 J Morris (GB) 13.90; 292 J Morris (GB) 13.91; 293 J Morris (GB) 13.92; 294 J Morris (GB) 13.93; 295 J Morris (GB) 13.94; 296 J Morris (GB) 13.95; 297 J Morris (GB) 13.96; 298 J Morris (GB) 13.97; 299 J Morris (GB) 13.98; 300 J Morris (GB) 13.99; 301 J Morris (GB) 13.10; 302 J Morris (GB) 13.11; 303 J Morris (GB) 13.12; 304 J Morris (GB) 13.13; 305 J Morris (GB) 13.14; 306 J Morris (GB) 13.15; 307 J Morris (GB) 13.16; 308 J Morris (GB) 13.17; 309 J Morris (GB) 13.18; 310 J Morris (GB) 13.19; 311 J Morris (GB) 13.20; 312 J Morris (GB) 13.21; 313 J Morris (GB) 13.22; 314 J Morris (GB) 13.23; 315 J Morris (GB) 13.24; 316 J Morris (GB) 13.25; 317 J Morris (GB) 13.26; 318 J Morris (GB) 13.27; 319 J Morris (GB) 13.28; 320 J Morris (GB) 13.29; 321 J Morris (GB) 13.30; 322 J Morris (GB) 13.31; 323 J Morris (GB) 13.32; 324 J Morris (GB) 13.33; 325 J Morris (GB) 13.34; 326 J Morris (GB) 13.35; 327 J Morris (GB) 13.36; 328 J Morris (GB) 13.37; 329 J Morris (GB) 13.38; 330 J Morris (GB) 13.39; 331 J Morris (GB) 13.40; 332 J Morris (GB) 13.41; 333 J Morris (GB) 13.42; 334 J Morris (GB) 13.43; 335 J Morris (GB) 13.44; 336 J Morris (GB) 13.45; 337 J Morris (GB) 13.46; 338 J Morris (GB) 13.47; 339 J Morris (GB) 13.48; 340 J Morris (GB) 13.49; 341 J Morris (GB) 13.50; 342 J Morris (GB) 13.51; 343 J Morris (GB) 13.52; 344 J Morris (GB) 13.53; 345 J Morris (GB) 13.54; 346 J

**Like watching Brazil**  
Glenn Moore looks at the rise and rise of Barnsley, page 22

# sport

**Confessions of a Spurs fan**  
David Aaronovitch sees a glimmer of hope for the Everton of London, page 22

**WORLD ATHLETICS CHAMPIONSHIPS:** Johnson recovers his form as Americans outclass Britain's trio of 400 metre finalists

## Backley speaks silver on last throw

MIKE ROWBOTTOM

reports from Athens

Steve Backley, who normally makes his mark on major javelin competitions with the first throw, left it until his last here last night to earn Britain's second silver medal of the World Championships.

Backley's late flourish, which was enough to defeat all but the surprise South African winner Marius Corbett, had the unfortunate side-effect of knocking his friend and training partner, Mick Hill, out of the bronze medal position. "I'm as sick as a flock of parrots," Hill said.

Britain's trio of 400 metres runners also experienced that let-down feeling after failing to gain a medal in a final won, as expected, by the defending champion, Michael Johnson.

Mark Richardson ran a personal best of 44.47sec in fourth place, with Iwan Thomas dropping back to sixth in 44.52 after a fast start and Jamie Bauch finishing last in 45.22.

Backley, who had begun the evening in search of the global gold which he said he needed to round off his achievements in his event, looked for most of the evening as if he would come away empty-handed. His first throw, on which he had pinned such hope, was only 82.94m. His face said everything about his disappointment. Last summer in Atlanta a big opening effort had been enough to secure silver, as only Jan Zelezny managed to beat it.

Zelezny, also, to general amazement, came away with nothing, no-throwing twice and then failing to make the cut of the early years of her career.

the final three throws with his only recorded effort of 82.04.

Hill put himself into the silver medal position early on with throws of 84.48 and 86.54. But the competition was ultimately won by a startling one-round throw of 88.40m by the 21-year-old student Corbett.

World junior champion in 1994, Corbett was injured last year and not regarded even with South Africa as a medal prospect. His winning distance was an improvement of 10 metres in the space of a season. His best up until 1996 was 77.98, a distance he threw in 1994. This year he had managed 83.90 at altitude.

Earlier this season, Zelezny invited Corbett to throw in a big school meeting at Stellenbosch. Zelezny threw over 94 metres to lead the world's standings this year. Perhaps something rubbed off on the student.

The atmosphere in the stadium was predictably partisan as the Greek thrower Kostas Gatzitidis sought to match the

final three throws with his only recorded effort of 82.04.

Backley, who appeared to be getting increasingly disconsolate, earned his medal with a final effort of 86.80. From a competitive point of view it was one of his finest efforts.

Whether he will regard it as a silver gained or a gold lost remains to be seen. "He did the business again," Hill said. "In the long run I'm sure he'll be disappointed, but he's actually highly delighted now because he's ended up with nothing."

Backley had mixed feelings: "I was absolutely delighted to have stumped the Greek with the last throw," he said. But he complained that the Greek officials had started his clock on two of his six throws. "It made me mad and that doesn't suit me."

Hill showed his disappointment by flinging away his throwing belt after his last effort. Until

Denise Lewis thanks her mother

Denise Lewis plans to use her biggest pay-day to thank her mother for the life-long sacrifices that helped the British heptathlete win silver in Athens.

Lewis pocketed £18,000 after winning Britain's first medal in the World Championships while her mother, Joan, watched from the stands.

The 24-year-old from Wolverhampton, who never knew her father, knows it was the series of low-paying jobs taken by her mother that provided a financial bedrock in the early years of her career.

Now it is pay-back time for Lewis who, when asked what she would do with her prize money, said: "I can help my mother pay off the mortgage. That would be nice."

Richardson was dejected. "I ran a personal best. I ran a very good race. A PB should be satisfying, but at the moment it's disappointing. Coming fourth is probably the worst position to come. I really thought I could get a medal. I ran the best race I possibly could. Normally bronze is won in about 44.50. That shows what a tough standard it was."

Results, page 23

"She has always been so strong. She's my best friend as well as my biggest supporter. It's good to know that she is there in the stands watching me."

Lewis' medal exploits have been carefully documented in scrapbooks by her proud mother. "Sometimes she will get them out and say, 'Did my little Denise do that?'" the heptathlete said.

Backley's intervention, he had seemed ready to earn another world bronze to go with the one he won in 1993 following the disqualification of the third-placed man for a doping offence.

Thomas, who like Richardson

has been receiving treatment for a niggling injury behind his knee, made a characteristically brave attempt to keep in touch with the defending 400m champion, going off very fast.

As the field turned into the final straight, the fair hair of Thomas, who was in lane two, appeared for a heady moment to be level with Johnson, but he could not maintain his momentum. First the champion, then Davis, Camoga, Uganda's Olympic bronze medalist, then Tyree Washington, America's new kid on the blocks, came past him. Johnson was timed at 44.12, with Camoga second in 44.37 and Washington third in 44.39.

"I maybe went too hard for

300 metres but I've lost a bit of

fitness recently and I couldn't

hang on," Thomas said. "At least I gave it 100 per cent. I missed almost 10 days of training prior to this so I maybe lost the edge. But I am proud of myself for showing the guts to go for it. I planned to catch Johnson. I thought I could hold him off, but it wasn't to be."

Richardson was dejected. "I ran a personal best. I ran a very good race. A PB should be satisfying, but at the moment it's disappointing. Coming fourth is probably the worst position to come. I really thought I could get a medal. I ran the best race I possibly could. Normally bronze is won in about 44.50. That shows what a tough standard it was."

Results, page 23

Backley, who had been to the final straight, the fair hair of Thomas, who was in lane two, appeared for a heady moment to be level with Johnson, but he could not maintain his momentum. First the champion, then Davis, Camoga, Uganda's Olympic bronze medalist, then Tyree Washington, America's new kid on the blocks, came past him. Johnson was timed at 44.12, with Camoga second in 44.37 and Washington third in 44.39.

"I maybe went too hard for

300 metres but I've lost a bit of

fitness recently and I couldn't

hang on," Thomas said. "At least I gave it 100 per cent. I missed almost 10 days of training prior to this so I maybe lost the edge. But I am proud of myself for showing the guts to go for it. I planned to catch Johnson. I thought I could hold him off, but it wasn't to be."

Richardson was dejected. "I ran a personal best. I ran a very good race. A PB should be satisfying, but at the moment it's disappointing. Coming fourth is probably the worst position to come. I really thought I could get a medal. I ran the best race I possibly could. Normally bronze is won in about 44.50. That shows what a tough standard it was."

Results, page 23

Backley, who had been to the final straight, the fair hair of Thomas, who was in lane two, appeared for a heady moment to be level with Johnson, but he could not maintain his momentum. First the champion, then Davis, Camoga, Uganda's Olympic bronze medalist, then Tyree Washington, America's new kid on the blocks, came past him. Johnson was timed at 44.12, with Camoga second in 44.37 and Washington third in 44.39.

"I maybe went too hard for

300 metres but I've lost a bit of

fitness recently and I couldn't

hang on," Thomas said. "At least I gave it 100 per cent. I missed almost 10 days of training prior to this so I maybe lost the edge. But I am proud of myself for showing the guts to go for it. I planned to catch Johnson. I thought I could hold him off, but it wasn't to be."

Richardson was dejected. "I ran a personal best. I ran a very good race. A PB should be satisfying, but at the moment it's disappointing. Coming fourth is probably the worst position to come. I really thought I could get a medal. I ran the best race I possibly could. Normally bronze is won in about 44.50. That shows what a tough standard it was."

Results, page 23

Backley, who had been to the final straight, the fair hair of Thomas, who was in lane two, appeared for a heady moment to be level with Johnson, but he could not maintain his momentum. First the champion, then Davis, Camoga, Uganda's Olympic bronze medalist, then Tyree Washington, America's new kid on the blocks, came past him. Johnson was timed at 44.12, with Camoga second in 44.37 and Washington third in 44.39.

"I maybe went too hard for

300 metres but I've lost a bit of

fitness recently and I couldn't

hang on," Thomas said. "At least I gave it 100 per cent. I missed almost 10 days of training prior to this so I maybe lost the edge. But I am proud of myself for showing the guts to go for it. I planned to catch Johnson. I thought I could hold him off, but it wasn't to be."

Richardson was dejected. "I ran a personal best. I ran a very good race. A PB should be satisfying, but at the moment it's disappointing. Coming fourth is probably the worst position to come. I really thought I could get a medal. I ran the best race I possibly could. Normally bronze is won in about 44.50. That shows what a tough standard it was."

Results, page 23

Backley, who had been to the final straight, the fair hair of Thomas, who was in lane two, appeared for a heady moment to be level with Johnson, but he could not maintain his momentum. First the champion, then Davis, Camoga, Uganda's Olympic bronze medalist, then Tyree Washington, America's new kid on the blocks, came past him. Johnson was timed at 44.12, with Camoga second in 44.37 and Washington third in 44.39.

"I maybe went too hard for

300 metres but I've lost a bit of

fitness recently and I couldn't

hang on," Thomas said. "At least I gave it 100 per cent. I missed almost 10 days of training prior to this so I maybe lost the edge. But I am proud of myself for showing the guts to go for it. I planned to catch Johnson. I thought I could hold him off, but it wasn't to be."

Richardson was dejected. "I ran a personal best. I ran a very good race. A PB should be satisfying, but at the moment it's disappointing. Coming fourth is probably the worst position to come. I really thought I could get a medal. I ran the best race I possibly could. Normally bronze is won in about 44.50. That shows what a tough standard it was."

Results, page 23

Backley, who had been to the final straight, the fair hair of Thomas, who was in lane two, appeared for a heady moment to be level with Johnson, but he could not maintain his momentum. First the champion, then Davis, Camoga, Uganda's Olympic bronze medalist, then Tyree Washington, America's new kid on the blocks, came past him. Johnson was timed at 44.12, with Camoga second in 44.37 and Washington third in 44.39.

"I maybe went too hard for

300 metres but I've lost a bit of

fitness recently and I couldn't

hang on," Thomas said. "At least I gave it 100 per cent. I missed almost 10 days of training prior to this so I maybe lost the edge. But I am proud of myself for showing the guts to go for it. I planned to catch Johnson. I thought I could hold him off, but it wasn't to be."

Richardson was dejected. "I ran a personal best. I ran a very good race. A PB should be satisfying, but at the moment it's disappointing. Coming fourth is probably the worst position to come. I really thought I could get a medal. I ran the best race I possibly could. Normally bronze is won in about 44.50. That shows what a tough standard it was."

Results, page 23

Backley, who had been to the final straight, the fair hair of Thomas, who was in lane two, appeared for a heady moment to be level with Johnson, but he could not maintain his momentum. First the champion, then Davis, Camoga, Uganda's Olympic bronze medalist, then Tyree Washington, America's new kid on the blocks, came past him. Johnson was timed at 44.12, with Camoga second in 44.37 and Washington third in 44.39.

"I maybe went too hard for

300 metres but I've lost a bit of

fitness recently and I couldn't

hang on," Thomas said. "At least I gave it 100 per cent. I missed almost 10 days of training prior to this so I maybe lost the edge. But I am proud of myself for showing the guts to go for it. I planned to catch Johnson. I thought I could hold him off, but it wasn't to be."

Richardson was dejected. "I ran a personal best. I ran a very good race. A PB should be satisfying, but at the moment it's disappointing. Coming fourth is probably the worst position to come. I really thought I could get a medal. I ran the best race I possibly could. Normally bronze is won in about 44.50. That shows what a tough standard it was."

Results, page 23

Backley, who had been to the final straight, the fair hair of Thomas, who was in lane two, appeared for a heady moment to be level with Johnson, but he could not maintain his momentum. First the champion, then Davis, Camoga, Uganda's Olympic bronze medalist, then Tyree Washington, America's new kid on the blocks, came past him. Johnson was timed at 44.12, with Camoga second in 44.37 and Washington third in 44.39.

"I maybe went too hard for

300 metres but I've lost a bit of

fitness recently and I couldn't

hang on," Thomas said. "At least I gave it 100 per cent. I missed almost 10 days of training prior to this so I maybe lost the edge. But I am proud of myself for showing the guts to go for it. I planned to catch Johnson. I thought I could hold him off, but it wasn't to be."

Richardson was dejected. "I ran a personal best. I ran a very good race. A PB should be satisfying, but at the moment it's disappointing. Coming fourth is probably the worst position to come. I really thought I could get a medal. I ran the best race I possibly could. Normally bronze is won in about 44.50. That shows what a tough standard it was."

Results, page 23

Backley, who had been to the final straight, the fair hair of Thomas, who was in lane two, appeared for a heady moment to be level with Johnson, but he could not maintain his momentum. First the champion, then Davis, Camoga, Uganda's Olympic bronze medalist, then Tyree Washington, America's new kid on the blocks, came past him. Johnson was timed at 44.12, with Camoga second in 44.37 and Washington third in 44.39.

"I maybe went too hard for

300 metres but I've lost a bit of

fitness recently and I couldn't

hang on," Thomas said. "At least I gave it 100 per cent. I missed almost 10 days of training prior to this so I maybe lost the edge. But I am proud of myself for showing the guts to go for it. I planned to catch Johnson. I thought I could hold him off, but it wasn't to be."

Richardson was dejected. "I ran a personal best. I ran a very good race. A PB should be satisfying, but at the moment it's disappointing. Coming fourth is probably the worst position to come. I really thought I could get a medal. I ran the best race I possibly could. Normally bronze is won in about 44.50. That shows what a tough standard it was."

Results, page 23

Backley, who had been to the final straight, the fair hair of Thomas, who was in lane two, appeared for a heady moment to be level with Johnson, but he could not maintain his momentum. First the champion, then Davis, Camoga, Uganda's Olympic bronze medalist, then Tyree Washington, America's new kid on the blocks, came past him. Johnson was timed at 44.12, with Camoga second in 44.37 and Washington third in 44.39.

"I maybe went too hard for

300 metres but I've lost a bit of

fitness recently and I couldn't

hang on," Thomas said. "At least I gave it 100 per cent. I missed almost 10 days of training prior to this so I maybe lost the edge. But I am proud of myself for showing the guts to go for it. I planned to catch Johnson. I thought I could hold him off, but it wasn't to be."

Richardson was dejected. "I ran a personal best. I ran a very good race. A PB should be satisfying, but at the moment it's disappointing. Coming fourth is probably the worst position to come. I really thought I could get a medal. I ran the best